

# African Violet

## MAGAZINE



**In Search of New Violets 30th Anniversary P.14**

**Ceramic Self-Watering Planters P.26**

**Why We Should Grow Species Saintpaulias P.36**

# AVSA Information

## FOR CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITH YOUR SOCIETY

For accurate service, send your inquiries to the correct person.  
Always include your name and address.

### ■ AVSA Business

- **AVSA Office Address:** AVSA, P.O. Box 22417, Beaumont, TX 77720
- **Office Manager:** Amy Carruth (844) 400-AVSA (2872); (409) 839-4725; Fax (409) 839-4329.  
*Email:* avsa@earthlink.net.
- Hours: Monday–Thursday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. CT.
- **Official Correspondence:** AVSA Secretary, P.O. Box 22417, Beaumont, TX 77720. *Email:* secretary@avsa.org.

### ■ Membership and Affiliates

- **New or Renewal Membership:** Membership application on white protective cover of *AVM* or at [www.africanviolet.societyofamerica.org/participate/membership](http://www.africanviolet.societyofamerica.org/participate/membership). Send check payable to AVSA in U.S. dollars from a U.S. bank; VISA or Mastercard for new or renewable membership to AVSA Office; or pay online.
- **Change of Address:** Send new address to AVSA Office at least 30 days before it is to take effect, along with old address.
- **Membership Cards:** Sent to Associate Members. Renewing members receive card on white protective cover of *AVM*.
- **Membership Committee:** Send ideas, offers to help and requests for assistance to Stephen Covolo-Hudson.  
*Email:* membership@avsa.org.
- **Affiliate Committee:** For information on how to organize a chapter, write Jeri Anderson. *Email:* affiliate@avsa.org.

### ■ Shows and Judges

- **Shows and Judges Committee:** Mary Corondan.  
*Email:* judges@avsa.org.
- **Show Schedule Approval:** For information on Shows, AVSA Awards and approving schedules, email Susan Anderson at [showschedule@avsa.org](mailto:showschedule@avsa.org) and attach a copy of your show schedule.
- **Order AVSA Rosettes:** SSA Packet with no rosettes \$5. Orders for rosettes must be specific as to which is needed — standard, species, mini-semi; they can be mixed color and size, all same price. All rosettes are \$12.00 each, added to price of SSA packet.
- **Judging School:** To register a judging school, send request to Ruth Loomis. *Email:* [ruthloomis@msn.com](mailto:ruthloomis@msn.com). A registration fee of \$15 is required and should be sent to the AVSA Office.
- **Judges' Duplicate Cards:** Send self-addressed, stamped envelope to Mary Corondan, 434 Plumwood Way, Fairview, TX 75069. *Email:* judges@avsa.org.

### ■ AVSA Fundraising

- **Fundraising:** Randy G. Deutsch, Chair.  
*Email:* fundraising@avsa.org.
- **Funds:** Booster Donations, Boyce Edens Research Fund, Barbara Burde Endowment Fund, Anne & Frank Tinari Endowment Fund.
- **Payment:** Contribute through the website or mail to AVSA Office; please designate fund.

### ■ African Violet Magazine

- **AVM Editor:** Sophia Bennett, P.O. Box 22417, Beaumont, TX 77720. *Email:* editor@avsa.org.
- **Copyright:** Copyrighted 2023, The African Violet Society of America, Inc., all rights reserved. Reproduction, in whole or in part, in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, without permission is prohibited. All articles are property of AVSA and must not be reprinted without Editor's permission.
- **Publication Deadlines:** Jan. issue: Nov. 1; Mar. issue: Jan. 1; May issue: Mar. 1; July issue: May 1; Sept. issue: July 1; Nov. issue: Sept. 1.
- **Articles, Columns and Memorials:** Send to Editor by publication deadline.
- **Coming Events:** Send to Editor or fill out event form on [www.africanvioletsocietyofamerica.org](http://www.africanvioletsocietyofamerica.org) by publication deadline.
- **Advertising Rates and Information:** Richard Craft, Chair. *Email:* advertising@avsa.org. Send advertising to Chair by publication deadline.
- **Back Issues:** Complete your set now. Request price list of available issues from AVSA Office. Send SASE for list or download from the AVSA Store.

### ■ International Registrar

- **Plant Registration:** Joe Bruns.  
*Email:* [registration@avsa.org](mailto:registration@avsa.org).
- **Master Varieties List (AMVL) & Supplements:** Download from AVSA website or order from AVSA office for \$2. Orders in writing only. Send any correction and/or description of new cultivars with hybridizer's name to Joe Bruns.
- **Research:** Send suggested projects for scientific research or names of interested, qualified, potential research personnel to Dr. Jeff Smith.  
*Email:* [jsmith4@bsu.edu](mailto:jsmith4@bsu.edu).
- **AVSA Scholarship Program:** Dr. Charles Ramser.  
*Email:* scholarship@avsa.org.

### ■ AVSA Convention

- **Convention:** Kathy Lahti, Convention Chair.  
*Email:* [convention@avsa.org](mailto:convention@avsa.org).
- **2023 Convention:** May 28–June 4, Sheraton Atlanta Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia.
- **Future Dates:** If interested in sponsoring a national convention in your area, contact Convention Chair.
- **Convention Programs:** Send special requests for workshop programs or interesting speakers to Convention Chair.
- **Convention Awards:** Send suggestions to Vickie Crider.  
*Email:* [awards@avsa.org](mailto:awards@avsa.org). Send contributions to AVSA Office.
- **Commercial Activities, Sales and Exhibits:** For information on convention entries or sales room, contact Kathy Bell. *Email:* [commercials@avsa.org](mailto:commercials@avsa.org).

Join, renew and learn more at [www.africanvioletsocietyofamerica.org](http://www.africanvioletsocietyofamerica.org)

The African Violet Magazine (ISSN 0002-0265) is published bimonthly in January, March, May, July, September, November. Periodical postage is paid by The African Violet Society of America, Inc., a nonprofit organization at P.O. Box 22417, Beaumont, TX 77720 and at additional mailing offices.

Subscription \$35 per year, which is included in membership dues • Copyright 2023, The African Violet Society of America, Inc. POSTMASTER: Please send change of address form 3579 to African Violet Magazine • P.O. Box 22417, Beaumont, TX 77720

# African Violet MAGAZINE

Volume 76 Number 3

ON THE COVER:  
*S. sb clone grotei* Silvert  
AVSA 2022 Convention  
Best Species  
Grown by: Linda Sumski  
Photo credit: Winston J. Goretsky



## AVSA NEWS

|  |    |  |    |
|--|----|--|----|
| President's Message—Susan Anderson . . . . .   | 3  | AVSA Office Update—Amy Carruth . . . . .     | 12 |
| Editor's Notes—Sophia Bennett . . . . .        | 5  | Booster Donations—Randy G. Deutsch . . . . . | 52 |
| Registration Report—Joe Bruns . . . . .        | 6  | Barbara Burde                                |    |
| Violets Most Wanted—Mary Thompson . . . . .    | 6  | Endowment Fund—Randy G. Deutsch . . . . .    | 52 |
| 2023 Best Varieties                            |    | Anne and Frank Tinari                        |    |
| Voting Now Open—Trudy Brekel . . . . .         | 7  | Endowment Fund—Janet Riemer . . . . .        | 52 |
| Coming Events . . . . .                        | 8  | Boyce Edens                                  |    |
| Update on the                                  |    | Research Fund—Randy G. Deutsch . . . . .     | 53 |
| 2022 Article Contest—Sophia Bennett . . . . .  | 9  | In Memory . . . . .                          | 53 |
| Senior Judges Notice—Barbara Werness . . . . . | 10 | AVSA Membership Application . . . . .        | 55 |
| A Guide for Membership                         |    | AVSA Order Form . . . . .                    | 56 |
| Maintenance—Steven Covolo-Hudson . . . . .     | 11 |  |    |

## FEATURED PHOTOGRAPHS

|  |    |  |    |
|--|----|--|----|
| Picasso—M. Tremblay . . . . .                      | 13 | <i>Chrysothemis pulchella</i> 'Bronze' . . . . . | 39 |
| <i>Primulina huangii</i> . . . . .                 | 20 | <i>S. ionanthus</i> subsp.                       |    |
| <i>S. 5i</i> clone <i>velutinus</i> lite . . . . . | 21 | <i>ionanthus</i> var. <i>ionanthus</i> . . . . . | 41 |
| Hunter's Antique—K. Muzalewski . . . . .           | 21 | Jolly Devil—H. Pittman . . . . .                 | 46 |
| Hunter's Lil Pissah—K. Muzalewski . . . . .        | 31 | EK-Glaz Almaz—E. Korshunova . . . . .            | 47 |
| Cajun's Flamboyant                                 |    | LiK-Tanets Flamingo—G. Lazarenko . . . . .       | 54 |
| Mistress—B. Thibodeaux . . . . .                   | 35 | Mac's Misty Meadow—G. McDonald . . . . .         | 57 |

## FEATURES

|   |    |   |    |
|---|----|---|----|
| In Search of New Violets—Dr. Jeff Smith . . . . .   | 14 | Ceramic Self-Watering                       |    |
| My First Violets: A Beginner's                      |    | Planters—Chris Brooks . . . . .             | 26 |
| Guide to Mealybugs—Sandra Skalski . . . . .         | 18 | Tips for                                    |    |
| A Little Bit of Knowledge May Not be a              |    | Hybridizers—Natalia Puminova . . . . .      | 32 |
| Good Thing—Sharon Rosenzweig . . . . .              | 22 | Why We Should Grow                          |    |
| A Primer on Impatiens                               |    | Species Saintpaulias—Paul Kilroy . . . . .  | 36 |
| Necrotic Spot Virus—Coilin Walsh . . . . .          | 23 | Using Carnivorous Plants to Control         |    |
| Family Portrait:                                    |    | Fungus Gnats—Patricia De La Torre . . . . . | 40 |
| <i>Smithiantha cinnabarina</i> —Mel Grice . . . . . | 24 |   |    |

## CONVENTION

|  |    |  |    |
|--|----|--|----|
| What to Pack for the AVSA                      |    | Luncheon Auction:                          |    |
| National Convention—Randy G. Deutsch . . . . . | 42 | Donations Needed—Candace Baldwin . . . . . | 44 |
| Advice for First-Time                          |    |  |    |
| Convention Attendees—Candace Baldwin . . . . . | 44 |  |    |

## COLOR COMMENTARY

|   |    |   |    |
|---|----|---|----|
| AV Creative Corner:                             |    | Taking Home the Best Violet—Bruce Pearson . . . . . | 49 |
| Saying Thanks to Our AVs—Rich Follett . . . . . | 48 | Confession of a Violette—Irina Kuznetsova . . . . . | 50 |

# African Violet Society of America

# Index of Advertisers

## OFFICERS

**Susan Anderson**, President  
email: [president@avsa.org](mailto:president@avsa.org)

**Mary Corondan**, 1st Vice President  
email: [firstvp@avsa.org](mailto:firstvp@avsa.org)

**Glenda Williams**, 2nd Vice President  
email: [secondvp@avsa.org](mailto:secondvp@avsa.org)

**Sharon Shannon**, 3rd Vice President  
email: [thirdvp@avsa.org](mailto:thirdvp@avsa.org)

**Terri Post**, Treasurer  
email: [treasurer@avsa.org](mailto:treasurer@avsa.org)

**Rich Follett**, Secretary  
email: [secretary@avsa.org](mailto:secretary@avsa.org)

**Sue Ramser**, Past President  
email: [pastpresident@avsa.org](mailto:pastpresident@avsa.org)

## AVM COMMITTEES

**Dale Martens**, Chair of Editorial Board  
email: [DaleMartens@mchsi.com](mailto:DaleMartens@mchsi.com)

**Richard Craft**, Advertising Chair  
email: [advertising@avsa.org](mailto:advertising@avsa.org)

**Sandra Skalski**, Chair of Publications Committee  
email: [publications@avsa.org](mailto:publications@avsa.org)

## STAFF

**Sophia Bennett**, Editor  
P.O. Box 22417, Beaumont, TX 77720  
email: [editor@avsa.org](mailto:editor@avsa.org)

**Shirley Jones**, Desktop Publisher  
email: [desktoppublisher@avsa.org](mailto:desktoppublisher@avsa.org)

**Amy Carruth**, Office Manager  
P.O. Box 22417, Beaumont, TX 77720  
email: [avsa@earthlink.net](mailto:avsa@earthlink.net)

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| American Orchid Society .....            | 58                |
| AVS of Canada.....                       | 58                |
| AVSA Drinkware .....                     | 45                |
| AVSA Membership.....                     | 7                 |
| Bloomlala Apparel.....                   | 17                |
| Dandy Pots .....                         | 59                |
| Dave's Violets .....                     | Inside Back Cover |
| Enchanted Gardens.....                   | 59                |
| Gesneriad Society .....                  | 58                |
| Glenda's House of Violets .....          | 58                |
| Growing to Show .....                    | 60                |
| JoS Violets .....                        | 58                |
| Legacy Violets .....                     | 58                |
| Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses .....            | 60                |
| Moonlight Nursery.....                   | Inside Back Cover |
| Perfectly Pittman DVD in AVSA Store..... | 38                |
| Physan 20 .....                          | 60                |
| Swift Moist-Rite Planter... ..           | Inside Back Cover |
| The Violet Barn .....                    | Back Cover        |
| Violet Supply .....                      | 59                |

Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.





# President's Message

By Susan Anderson

Email: [president@avsa.org](mailto:president@avsa.org)

Summertime means I have several new African violets in my collection to fuss over. I already have too many, but each variety is oh so pretty!

## Atlanta Convention

This year's national show and convention will be held in Atlanta, Georgia — the city where AVSA was founded. A wonderful lineup of programs and tours awaits us. I'm looking forward to gathering some helpful hints at the presentation on affiliate membership recruitment. The Atlanta Botanical Garden tour is not to be missed, so pack your walking shoes. The highlight will be the beautiful rooms filled with African violets — the showroom and sales room! Please bring your best show entries, then pick up some new violets from our commercial vendors. There is truly something for every African violet enthusiast to enjoy at convention. It is especially fun to meet and learn from other members. I hope you have made plans to join us.

## Accomplishments

The past two years have flown by quickly. I am pleased to reflect on how much has been accomplished and the many members who stepped up to make a difference. The Officers, Directors, committee chairs and committee members have done so very much to move AVSA forward.

The membership has responded to requests and provided valuable insights. Many continue to support our society financially with generous donations. All contributions, big or

small, add up over time and make a huge impact. Several members have authored articles for the magazine. AVSA is grateful to the growers who share their stories and document their experiences to educate us all.

Significant improvements have occurred behind the scenes to improve AVSA's online presence and operations, primarily via the website, social media and the iMIS membership platform. Creation and implementation of an online library to house committee documents will be invaluable to the society.

Through this time, AVSA dealt with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the challenge of returning to in-person conventions. The desire for annual events is strong, and very evident with this year's resurgence in local shows, sales and displays. African violet growers want to learn and share with each other. Where there is passion and energy, there is growth.

New products, programs or updates require members to contribute their time and talents. The services and materials AVSA provides are created and supported by our talented volunteers along with generous financial gifts. There are many ways of getting involved. Please reach out to any of the Officers, Directors or committee chairs and bring your ideas and enthusiasm. Together, we can ensure AVSA grows and evolves to meet the needs of our membership. Our volunteers keep the society strong and flourishing.

## Thank You

I offer my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has served AVSA during my presidency. Special thanks to our wonderful AVSA office staff, Amy and Stephanie, for keeping everything running smoothly. Thanks also to Sophia and Shirley for their creative talents in compiling each issue of the *AVM*. To the Officers on the

Executive Committee and board members, thank you for your support in leading our beloved society. I greatly appreciate your generosity and dedication.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as AVSA President. Thank you for entrusting me with the responsibility.



My mom, Jeri Anderson, and me at the AVSA convention. I love that we can participate in AVSA together.

## Growing Tip

“Did you know there are three types of African violets?

**Single Crown** hybrids are the most common. Thousands of named varieties have been hybridized, each to have unique traits. They are meant to be grown in a rosette pattern with one center of growth.

**Trailing** hybrids (often called trailers) are bred to have many crowns (or centers of

growth) and bloom freely. Many flower colors are available. Special growing techniques will produce impressive size and form in your trailers.

**Species** first grew in nature with flowers in shades of lavender. Species are often labeled *Saintpaulia*, which is the scientific name for African violets. Care varies, often based on where each species was found growing.”  
—AVSA Growing Tips Newsletter



# Editor's Notes

By Sophia Bennett

Email: [editor@avsa.org](mailto:editor@avsa.org)

I know that for many of you, the highlight of every issue of *African Violet Magazine* is Dr. Jeff Smith's "In Search of New Violets" column. This issue marks Dr. Smith's 180th column, which means he has been writing it for 30 years. Congratulations to Dr. Smith on hitting this impressive milestone, and thank you for being such an incredible resource for this community for so many years. Dr. Smith has been a critical source of wisdom and advice since I started this job nearly two years ago. I'm not sure how I would do it without him. I would like to publicly thank him for the many ways he has helped me and so many others.

What else can you look forward to in this issue of *AVM*? New contributor Chris Brooks shared a very in-depth article about two-piece ceramic self-watering planters with some great photographs (page 26). Another new writer, Patricia De La Torre, has a tip for naturally

controlling fungus gnats: easy-to-grow carnivorous plants (page 40). And Irina Kuznetsova has a charming ode to African violets that I believe many of you will relate to on page 50.

We have a brief update on the 2022 Article Contest on page 10. We had a dozen wonderful contributions thanks to the contest last year. The winners will be announced at the AVSA National Convention and in the next issue of *AVM*. We will also be sharing the guidelines for a new contest in the July/August magazine.

If you're looking for the AVSA membership application and product order form, good news: We're now putting them inside each magazine instead of on the white wrap that went around the outside. We know people often pull off the cover and throw it away, and we wanted to make sure everyone had access to this information all the time.

## *African Violet Magazine* Article and Column Deadlines

- January/February issue: November 1
- March/April issue: January 1
- May/June issue: March 1
- July/August issue: May 1
- September/October issue: July 1
- November/December issue: September 1

We would love to hear from you! Please send articles or article ideas for the *AVM* to Sophia Bennett at [editor@avsa.org](mailto:editor@avsa.org).



# Registration Report

By Joe Brunns

Email: [registration@avsa.org](mailto:registration@avsa.org)

## ■ Lynn Canning — Overland Park, KS

### LC's Playmate

- (11380) 10/16/2022 •(L. Canning)
- Semidouble chimera raspberry pansy/white stripe.
- Medium green, plain. •Semiminiature

## ■ Sam Cunningham — Houston, TX

### Carmen's Whispered Kiss

- (11381) 11/05/2022 •(S. Cunningham)
- Single white pansy/random fuchsia streaks.
- Medium green, serrated. •Semiminiature

## ■ Adrienne Rieck — Olympia Fields, IL

### Handy Dandy

- (11382) 12/04/2022 •(A. Rieck)
- Double coral-pink star.
- Dark green, plain, quilted, serrated/red back.
- Standard

## ■ Registration Change

The following has been changed at the request of the hybridizer:

### Fatal Magnetism

- (11372): Change name to **Fatal Desire**.

# Violets Most Wanted List

By Mary Thompson

Email: [preservingviolets@avsa.org](mailto:preservingviolets@avsa.org)

Happy May. Shows have already started with more scheduled. I'll be attending the AVSA National Convention in Atlanta, Georgia. If you see me, stop me to say hi. I would love to meet you. That is one of the highlights of the convention for me, meeting new people and seeing old friends. Happy violeting.

Apache Warbonnet  
Firebird  
Double Seafoam  
Purple Crest  
Seafoam  
Serenity  
Stephanie Croteau



# 2023 Best Varieties Voting is Now Open

By Trudy Brekel

Email: [bestvariety@avsa.org](mailto:bestvariety@avsa.org)

Every year, AVSA publishes a Best Varieties List that helps growers learn about African violet varieties that are easy and enjoyable to grow. The list includes 25 plants that members have selected as their favorites through a vote.

It's that time of year when you are able to vote for your favorite violets. There must be at least one of your favorites that you would like to see win one of the top 25 violets for the year. All nominations submitted by June 30 will be included in this year's report. The Best Varieties List will be published in the November/December issue of *African Violet Magazine*.

To vote online, log into the AVSA website as a member and choose Member Content from

the list on the left side of the screen. Select Best Varieties Submission and choose Best Varieties Online Submission. Enter up to five different varieties, along with your name, and click on the Submit button.

You also have the option of printing the form, filling it out and mailing it in. Mail votes to:

Trudy Brekel  
5553 W. Prentice Circle  
Littleton, CO 80123

If you want to email your list of votes, send the form as an attachment to [bestvariety@avsa.org](mailto:bestvariety@avsa.org).

The AVSA Best Varieties List for 2023 won't be complete without your vote.



**Join**

**JOIN TODAY!**

Learn more at  
[africanvioletsofamerica.org](http://africanvioletsofamerica.org)  
(409) 839-4725  
P.O. Box 22417  
Beaumont, TX 77720

AVSA is non-profit, educational organization dedicated to helping African violet enthusiasts enjoy these beautiful plants.

# Coming Events

Check the AVSA Events page ([www.africanvioletocietyofamerica.org/events](http://www.africanvioletocietyofamerica.org/events)), search the local club on Facebook or contact the organizers listed below for the latest information on these events.

## ■ May 6 — Colorado

Rocky Mountain African Violet Council  
Show and Sale  
Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church  
10000 E. Bellevue Ave.  
Englewood, CO  
Saturday: 9 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Melissa Shopnitz:  
[mcrazy4blooms@yahoo.com](mailto:mcrazy4blooms@yahoo.com)  
Trudy Brekel: [violetlady7@msn.com](mailto:violetlady7@msn.com)

## ■ May 6 — New Jersey

Garden State African Violet Club  
Show and Sale  
Mercer County Community College  
1200 Old Trenton Road  
West Windsor, NJ  
Saturday: noon-4 p.m.  
April Van Ness: [bvanliz@aol.com](mailto:bvanliz@aol.com)

## ■ May 6 — Texas

Moonlight African Violet and  
Gesneriad Society  
“Violets are Magical” Show and Sale  
Fort Worth Botanical Gardens  
3220 Botanic Garden Blvd.  
Fort Worth, TX  
Saturday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Anne McBurnett: [aburnett@Komatsu-inc.com](mailto:aburnett@Komatsu-inc.com)

## ■ May 6-7 — Wisconsin

Oshkosh Violet Society  
Show and Sale  
St. Jude the Apostle Church Hall  
531 Knapp St.  
Oshkosh, WI  
Saturday: 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
Sunday: 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Kevin Degner: [kevindegner7@yahoo.com](mailto:kevindegner7@yahoo.com)  
Doug Kindschuh: [dougsoasis@gmail.com](mailto:dougsoasis@gmail.com)

## ■ May 12 — Montana

Billings Bloomers African Violet Club  
“FINALLY our African Violet Sale”  
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church  
180 24th Street West  
Billings, MT  
Saturday: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Jo Ann Levine: [sassysmom@hotmail.com](mailto:sassysmom@hotmail.com)

## ■ May 13 — Missouri

Metropolitan St. Louis African Violet Council  
“Visions of Violets”  
Missouri Botanical Garden  
4344 Shaw Blvd.  
St. Louis, MO  
Saturday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
[metrostlouisavc@gmail.com](mailto:metrostlouisavc@gmail.com)

## ■ May 13 — Nevada

Glitter Gulch African Violets Growers  
“Violet Oasis” 2023 Show and Sale  
Nevada Garden Club Center  
800 Twin Lakes Drive  
Las Vegas, NV  
Saturday: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Joyce Stork: [kentsflowers@gmail.com](mailto:kentsflowers@gmail.com)

### ■ May 13 — Ontario

Toronto African Violet and Gesneriad Society  
Spring Sale  
Toronto Botanical Garden  
777 Lawrence Ave. E.  
Toronto, ON  
Sunday: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Doris Brownlie: [jtbrownlie@idirect.com](mailto:jtbrownlie@idirect.com)  
Sue Smith: [smith.sue2011@gmail.com](mailto:smith.sue2011@gmail.com)  
[www.tavgs.ca/sales.html](http://www.tavgs.ca/sales.html)

### ■ May 20 — New Jersey

African Violet Club of Burlington County  
Annual Judged Show and Sale  
Burlington County Lyceum of History and  
Natural Sciences  
307 High St.  
Mount Holly, NJ  
Saturday: noon-5 p.m.  
Blanche Renz: [bfrenz2000@yahoo.com](mailto:bfrenz2000@yahoo.com)

## Update on the 2022 Article Contest

By Sophia Bennett

Email: [editor@avsa.org](mailto:editor@avsa.org)

The 2022 Article Contest, which encouraged members to submit articles for publication in *African Violet Magazine*, was a big success. In total, seven people submitted 12 articles. They ran the gamut from beginner pieces designed to help people understand the basics of growing (and all the ups and downs that go with caring for houseplants) to advanced articles that addressed lighting, watering and potting media. Thank you to everyone who participated.

The winners of the contest will be announced at the AVSA Convention in Atlanta in May.

Prizes will be awarded to those who are present and shared at a later date with those who cannot attend. All of the winners will be announced in the July/August 2023 issue of *AVM*. In the next several issues, we will celebrate the winners with a short biography from each person.

AVSA's Publications Committee is finalizing plans for the 2023 Article Contest. Details will also be announced in the July/August 2023 issue. In the meantime, keep those articles coming! Your contributions to *AVM* are invaluable.

# Senior Judges: Important Notice

By Barbara Werness

Email: [seniorjudges@avsa.org](mailto:seniorjudges@avsa.org)

Senior Judges may apply for a renewal examination between May 1 and September 1, 2023. The examination request form can be obtained on the AVSA website in the Shows and Judges section under Member Content. Instructions for paying the \$5 fee are included on the form. Per the *AVSA Handbook for Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges*, 2022 edition, page 82, proof of three blue ribbons should be sent with the form. (Proof of three blue ribbons is waived for the 2023 examination.)

You may receive the examination by email as a Microsoft Word document. If not received, follow up within two weeks. If you require a hard copy by postal mail, allow up to three weeks for delivery. Please specify email or hard copy when you submit the registration form. Note that the 2022 edition of the Handbook will be used for the 2023 Senior Judges examination.

A printed hard copy (not email) of the exam must be returned by October 1, 2023 for grading. Send examinations to:

Barbara Werness  
12354 Naples St. NE  
Blaine, MN 55449

Advanced Judges who meet the requirements and wish to apply for their first Senior Judge examination can use the same request form. Also required are the following items of documentation of eligibility per the AVSA Handbook, page 84:

1. List of all judging schools attended, grades, etc.
2. Signed schedules of five AVSA shows judged (copy of signed title page with all show information is sufficient). Only three signed schedules are required for the 2023 examination.
3. Verification of three blue ribbons earned per AVSA Handbook, 2022 edition, page 82. (Proof of three blue ribbons is waived for the 2023 exam.)

Send documentation via postal mail.

Applications postmarked after September 1, 2023 will be returned and application may be made next year.

Include your email address to be notified of receipt of your exam. Exams will be returned after October 15, 2023.

Please refer any questions regarding the Senior Judge examination to Barbara Werness.

# A Guide for Membership Maintenance

By Steven Covolo-Hudson

Email: [membership@avsa.org](mailto:membership@avsa.org)

Maintaining membership in a nonprofit organization involves building strong relationships with members, providing value and ensuring that the organization remains relevant to its members' needs and interests. Now and then, even organizations that are very good at this need to give themselves a tune-up. This article highlights some of the best practices that AVSA and our affiliates can implement to meet membership needs with the end goal of long-term retention.

## **Communicate Regularly**

Keep members informed about the organization's activities, events and accomplishments. Use multiple channels such as email newsletters, social media and virtual and in-person meetings.

## **Engage Members**

Encourage members to get involved in the organization's activities, committees and events. Give them a sense of ownership in the organization's mission and goals.

## **Recognize Members**

Recognize members' contributions and accomplishments publicly and privately. Consider creating an awards program or a volunteer recognition program.

## **Provide Value**

Offer members benefits that are relevant and meaningful to them, such as discounts on events, access to exclusive resources or training, or networking opportunities.

## **Solicit Feedback**

Ask members about the organization's activities, events and programs. Use their input to make improvements and ensure the organization remains relevant and responsive to members' needs.

## **Create a Sense of Community**

Foster a sense of community among members by encouraging interaction and collaboration. Host networking events, discussion forums or online communities.

## **Offer Flexible Membership Options**

Consider offering flexible membership options and meeting times that meet members' needs, budgets and schedules. For example, provide meeting times and places that are accessible to all. Suggest having meetings on weekends or weeknights when more people aren't working or in school.

By implementing these strategies, a nonprofit organization can build a solid membership base that is engaged, committed and supportive of its mission and goals.





# AVSA Office Update

By Amy Carruth

Email: [avsa@earthlink.net](mailto:avsa@earthlink.net)

Hopefully, most of you have been able to use our new membership software and have logged into your account online. Please do not create a new account if you are already a member. If you have any trouble logging into your member account, please contact the office for assistance.

Attention affiliates: Please make sure your club's membership is current and updated with the correct contact information on the website, as well as with the office. When approving show schedules, there will be a delay in processing if your club's membership is not current.

If your club needs insurance for your meetings and/or show, email the office at [avsa@earthlink.net](mailto:avsa@earthlink.net). In the email, include the name of your club, name and address of the location, and the dates. The cost for insurance is \$6 per member and will need to be paid before issuing a certificate.

We still have several back issues of *African Violet Magazine* available for the cost of postage. These are great to bring to your meetings and shows to pass out to new members and help promote AVSA. Around 25 to 30 magazines can fit in a flat-rate box for \$17.10. You can purchase these by contacting the office. If you need supplies for your show and sale, please allow adequate time for your order to be processed and delivered.

We still do not have an exact date when First Class for Android will be up and running, but our awesome volunteers are working on it. Hopefully, we will have more information soon.

If you are having any trouble receiving your printed magazine, please contact the office immediately so we can assist you.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the 2023 Annual Convention and Show in Atlanta this year!



Photo credit: Winston J. Goretsky

## **Picasso**

Hybridized by: M. Tremblay

Grown by: Michael Jackson

Large



# In Search of New Violets

By Dr. Jeff Smith

Email: [jsmith4@bsu.edu](mailto:jsmith4@bsu.edu)

According to my files, this is the 180th submission for the “In Search of New Violets” column in the *African Violet Magazine*. With six issues per year, this makes 30 years of column writing.

In my opening column, I wrote: “Rarely has a plant changed so dramatically from the original form in the wild as has the African violet. In just one century since its discovery, this small, blue-flowered plant has blossomed into a rainbow of flower colors, growth forms and leaf types. Growers and hobbyists alike have found, nurtured and developed numerous mutations, resulting in the thousands of cultivars available today.” I further wrote, “It is that drive for tomorrow which will be the purpose of this column. Here, information will be exchanged that will hopefully lead to the cultivars of our imagination. What we think can be developed, perhaps by science and artistry, will be developed.”

So, what have hybridizers accomplished in the last 30 years? We have several new leaf variegations, including leaf chimera variegation and cosmic variegation. We have more plants with bell- and wasp-shaped blooms. Puff fantasy flowers have increased in number and color combinations. Exciting flowers in coral and coral red are more common and popular. Flower structure mutations that turn sepals into petals, petals into stamens and create plants without stamens and other unusual changes in flower morphology have

been found. Yellow flowers now exist, although hybridizers are still working on getting a good, stable color that covers the entire bloom. More combinations of flower colors, flower types, leaf variegations and foliage types are found in trailers and miniatures.

In short, the past 30 years has continued to increase the diversity of the original plants from Africa. Hybridizers have truly used science and artistry to develop an even larger range of plants for everyone to grow and enjoy.

In short, the past 30 years has continued to increase the diversity of the original plants from Africa. Hybridizers have truly used

science and artistry to develop an even larger range of plants for everyone to grow and enjoy.

I would like to say a big thank you for all who have submitted questions over the past 30 years. Without your input and support, this column would have been much more difficult to write. Thanks also to the hybridizers who have shared knowledge with me. Your willingness to discuss data has given insights into patterns of inheritance far beyond what I would have learned from my own experiences. I dreamed that this column would be a place to exchange information and ideas and that dream has certainly been realized.

I hope the questions that have been raised over the past 30 years of this column have been a resource and stimulus to new projects and plants for hybridizers everywhere. Please keep the questions coming. There are still plants to find in our “In Search of New Violets.”

**Q: Many of the seedlings that are germinating from a cross are totally white. Very few have any chlorophyll at all. Can anything be done to get these seedlings to “green up” or are they just doomed to die?**

A: Many seedlings from a cross using a strongly variegated seed parent may have few chloroplasts and appear white or nearly white. Yes, without a method to green up these seedlings, many will die from lack of food. Success will vary, but three ideas are to transplant early, change the temperature and use high-nitrogen fertilizer.

I’d suggest transplanting the seedlings as early as possible, either singularly or as small groups, into separate small pots such as individual-size coffee creamer containers. You can transplant seedlings at the cotyledon stage with a little practice. Many growers use a flat stick with a V-shaped notch on the tip to lift seedlings by their cotyledons.

Use a toothpick to break up the soil so the seedlings lift out easily. Transplant them to a container and use a mister to gently water the seedlings into place. The transplanting process will help “tickle” the roots, so growth is actually encouraged by moving the seedlings early. Remember to not use fingers to handle the seedlings as the stems can be crushed and kill the plant.

Most types of variegation respond to changes in temperature. More variegation is produced under cooler growing conditions and more green pigment is produced under warmer growing conditions. Try putting your white seedlings under warmer-than-usual temperatures and see how they respond. Daytime temperatures close to 80 degrees F may help. I’d also suggest keeping the nighttime temperatures above 72 F. This may not save all of your white seedlings, but it should help encourage chlorophyll development in some of them.

High-nitrogen fertilizers may also help, but care should be taken to not overfertilize or encourage the growth of algae on the soil. Look for a fertilizer that has a relatively high first number (the nitrogen value), such as a 7-0-0 or 3-1-1. Look to see if the nitrogen form is nitrate (NO<sub>3</sub>) rather than ammonia or urea. The latter two forms of nitrogen are more difficult for seedlings to utilize. Use the fertilizer at one-eighth strength. The idea is to stimulate the seedlings with a burst of nitrogen without encouraging the growth of algae. Using a sterilized soil mix can help prevent algae from growing, giving you more time for the seedlings to become green.

Some of the white seedlings produced by a heavily variegated seed parent will be doomed to die. They won’t have any functional chloroplasts to green up. However, transplanting early, trying an elevated temperature and

feeding with a burst of nitrogen should produce some surviving seedlings. Good luck!

**Q: I've heard that new mutations of African violets can be produced by exposing the plants to mutagens. Do you expose the whole plant or is another method used?**

A: Yes, it is true that new mutations of African violets can be produced by using different chemicals or mutagens to change the plant's DNA. This was an acceptable practice in the 1940s and 1950s, but I am aware of only one hybridizer who is currently using the practice.

If you decide to try working with mutagens, I strongly urge the use of appropriate safety procedures. Anything that has the ability to change a plant's DNA could also change your DNA. Be sure to wear gloves, protective eyewear, appropriate clothing and respiratory equipment and keep the chemicals away from children, pets and food. Because of the necessary safety precautions and that the past showed few useful mutations were ever produced by using mutagens, most hybridizers have discontinued the practice.

If you are willing to take proper safety precautions and insist on trying mutagens, I'd recommend adding the mutagens to newly cut leaves rather than plants. New plantlets for African violets start from a single epidermal cell on the surface of the petiole. This single cell would be the most likely target

for a mutagen and develop into a mutated plant. Treating a whole plant, even a small seedling, means the mutagen must affect many cells, and the odds of a successful mutation are greatly decreased. Trying for a mutation at a single cell stage should increase your chances of success.

Mutations to foliage traits or plant growth forms will be visible as the plantlets grow and develop. Even if no changes are detectable to the naked eye, mutations may still have occurred at the biochemical level, resulting in changes in flower form, color or other traits.

African violets mutate easily on their own, and most hybridizers are willing to work with those random "gifts" rather than try for new mutations. I'm not sure the gain is worth the risk of using mutagens. Please consider looking for natural mutations rather than taking the risk of mutagenic agents.

**Q: Can crown variegation be combined with a leaf chimera variegation?**

A: I recently received a picture that claimed to be such a combination. The combined effect was rather disappointing, as the white edges of the typical leaf chimera variegation were tan or brownish in color. The combination did not look good. Perhaps if the crown variegation was in pink rather than tan? Maybe this will be one of the new combinations hybridizers can create in the near future.

## Growing Tips Needed!

We love to share short-and-sweet growing and showing tips with our readers. Unfortunately, we recently ran out of these growing tips. Do you have a short piece of advice

about propagating, watering, fertilizing, repotting, lighting, pest management, showing or designing you're willing to share? Please email it to [editor@avsa.org](mailto:editor@avsa.org).





BLOOMLALA

# Adorn Yourself in Violets

Beautiful clothing items featuring  
African violets from Bloomlala!



Use code

# JOY

when you order online  
and AVSA receives a  
portion of the proceeds.

[bloomlala.com/collections/violet](https://bloomlala.com/collections/violet)

# My First Violets: A Beginner's Guide to Mealybugs

By Sandra Skalski

Email: [publications@avsa.org](mailto:publications@avsa.org)

What's fuzzy but not adorable, small but not cute, produces honeydew but isn't sweet?

Mealybugs! No African violet grower wants to see these little beasts on their plants. They spread fast and are tough to eliminate. Let's talk about keeping them out of your collection and eliminating them if they show up.



Mealybugs are very small and white and feed on the roots of African violets. Photo credit: Michaela Kroupová.

Two types of mealybugs trouble the violet world. Soil or root mealybugs (*Rhizoecus* sp.) are the most common type. As the name implies, you find these critters in the root ball feeding on the roots, although in heavy infestations, they may crawl up the main stem and into the lower leaf axils. Plant symptoms include poor growth and flowering and limp foliage. The small, white, one-sixteenth-of-an-inch adult insects may be visible on the wick or even floating in the reservoir. If you tip the plant out of the pot,

you may see a powdery coating on the sides of the pot or in the root ball. The adults may be difficult to distinguish from perlite, but perlite crunches and mealybugs squish.

How do you get soil mealybugs? Soil mealies usually come into your collection in the soil of a newly acquired plant. Often, you won't notice them because their numbers are low. If you aren't careful, you may accidentally spread them while grooming or repotting. A single infected plant might contaminate all of the plants in an isolation container. They can also spread if you community water.

Male and female mealybugs follow different development patterns. Female mealies go from egg to a crawler stage to a nymph stage and then to adults. Males go from egg to nymph to pupae to a flying adult. You may see the tiny male soil mealies on your sticky cards. They are smaller than whiteflies but look somewhat similar. The females do not fly, but in the crawler stage they are very mobile. They can swim in that community reservoir or watering mat and even crawl along your plant shelves.

Foliar mealybugs (*Pseudococcus* sp.) can arrive on a new plant, even if that plant isn't a violet. Common pests in greenhouses and outside gardens, they can also be introduced by flying insects such as flies and crawling insects like ants that are attracted to the honeydew they secrete when feeding on plants. Look for cottony white masses on the backs of leaves, in leaf axils or in the crown.

The life cycles for foliar mealybugs are very similar to soil mealies. Females do not fly but may be spread by crawling or with the help of other insects.

Before I tell you how to deal with them, let me tell you why they are hard to eliminate. First, they multiply quickly. Females lay many eggs, and the egg masses are protected by a waxy coating that prevents pesticides from penetrating. The pupa and nymph stages are nonfeeding, so systemic insecticides won't kill them. Often, the insecticide will become ineffective by the time the immature mealies start to feed on the plants. Even though the females don't fly, they are adept at moving from plant to plant by crawling along a shelf or floating in a reservoir or a watering mat.

The surest way to rid a plant of soil mealybugs is to either take a leaf cutting or lop off the roots and replant the crown. Swish the leaf or crown in an insecticide solution (1/4 teaspoon imidacloprid in a gallon of water). Use personal protective equipment (PPE). Pot the leaves up with a soil mix containing a granular insecticide at the strength recommended on the package.

A crown cutting consists of the center three leaves plus three or four others. Pot up the crown cutting in a 2 1/4-inch pot for small ones or a 3-inch pot for standards.

Next, wipe down shelves and wash trays. Check neighboring plants since the crawlers can travel from plant to plant on your shelves. If you mat or community reservoir watered, you will need to treat all the plants that were watered together.

Many growers are reluctant to take this approach. Surely there is a way to keep the plant intact and eliminate the insects? Diatomaceous earth mixed into the soil and granular systemic insecticides may be successful in eliminating some light infestations, but the

odds are against you for the reasons I cited above. You can give this a try, but remember, if even one or two mealies survive, the infestation will start again and may spread to other plants. You'll reduce your aggravation level greatly by taking a leaf or crown cutting. Keep the plants you are treating isolated until you are sure the pests are gone.

The surest way to  
rid a plant of soil  
mealybugs is to  
either take a leaf  
cutting or lop off  
the roots and  
replant the crown.

Foliar mealies are not as common on African violets, which is fortunate since they are even more difficult to eliminate. Their life cycle is similar, with females crawling on the plants and males developing into flying adults. The waxy coating that covers the females, eggs and early crawler stages prevents insecticides from penetrating the masses. Young crawlers are small and easily missed. Systemic insecticides may not last long enough to eliminate all of the insects, and they spread quickly.

Your best chance at eliminating these pests is to catch an infestation early. Isolate infected plants away from your collection. Dip a cotton swab in isopropyl alcohol and wipe the white masses away. Check the plants every day and repeat the process until you no longer see the bugs. This can be time consuming, so it's up to you to decide if the plants are worth the effort.

If the infestation has progressed and there are many patches of insects on the plants, it's best to restart the plants from leaves. Take the healthiest leaves you can find and swish them in an insecticide solution. Acephate and imidacloprid will work. Follow the package directions and be sure to use gloves and other recommended PPE. Wipe down shelves and wash trays.

As with any pest or disease, you're better off preventing a problem than fighting one. Carefully inspect new plants and don't bring

them home if pests are present. Once home, isolate plants until you are sure no pests or diseases are present. Inspect the root balls of all the plants before they go into the isolation container. One plant infected with soil mealies can infect all the others.

Most of all, don't be discouraged if a problem like mealybugs comes your way. It happens to most growers at one time or another. Make a treatment plan, then put it in place. Your plants will be back to beautiful in no time.



Photo credit: Winston J. Goretsky

***Primulina huangii***

Grown by: Dianne Duggan





Photo credit: Winston J. Goretsky

### **S. 5i clone *velutinus* lite**

Grown by: Linda Sumski



Photo credit: Winston J. Goretsky

### **Hunter's Antique**

Hybridized by: K. Muzalewski

Grown by: Mary Corondan

Miniature



# A Little Bit of Knowledge May Not be a Good Thing

By Sharon Rosenzweig

Email: srosenzw100@comcast.net

While growing African violets is generally a wonderful hobby, it can also drive you over the edge of sanity. After attending a national convention program on impatiens necrotic spot virus (INSV), I became obsessed with examining my plants for symptoms. Summer was hard on my plants — rotting leaves, off-color leaves, just-not-right leaves. I also had thrips. While none of the issues looked like the symptoms of INSV, I decided to test just in case.

I purchased the test kit from Agdia. I thought I had read the instructions carefully. It said one line is the control line and two lines is a positive result. I placed the leaf in the bag, mushed it up until the liquid turned brown, inserted the test strip and waited for 30 minutes.

Oh my gosh, I saw a gray line and a pink line. I guess I had seen too many early home pregnancy test commercials on TV. A pink line! It must be positive! I was not going to tell anyone. It would be like having leprosy. I'd be shunned. No, keeping quiet would not be responsible on my part.

In a panic, I went to my growing area and threw out all the plants that had leaf issues. Then I decided maybe I should go on Agdia's website and look for a picture of a positive test strip.

I found it. Wait — it had the gray line on the top to indicate the beginning of the test area and

Here's the moral of the story: Make sure you know what you are doing. Don't panic, and don't always assume the worst. Make sure you have all the facts.

two pink lines indicating the positive result. I only had one pink line. No INSV in my collection.

Here's the moral of the story: Make sure you know what you are doing. Don't panic, and don't always assume the worst. Make sure you have all the facts. Remember, while plant disease problems may be a matter of life or death for the plants, it is not that way for us. Losing a plant or a whole collection is a very sad thing, but most can be replaced.

# A Primer on Impatiens Necrotic Spot Virus

By Coilin Walsh

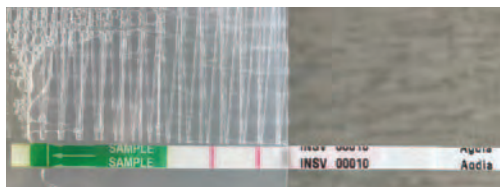
Email: coilin@agdia.com

Have you had trouble finding quality lettuce lately? Are your African violets looking sickly? If so, impatiens necrotic spot virus (INSV) and its nearly microscopic insect partner-in-crime may be the cause.

INSV is an enveloped, spherical-shaped plant-pathogenic virus in the Orthospovirus genus. Other related viruses in the same genus include (among others):

- Iris yellow spot virus (IYSV)
- Groundnut ringspot virus (GRSV)
- Tomato spotted wilt virus (TSWV)
- Tomato chlorotic spot virus (TCSV)
- Watermelon silver mottle virus (WSMoV)

The primary vector is the Western flower thrips (WFT). It can also be spread via vegetative propagation (cuttings).



INSV infects more than 600 different species, including orchids, tomatoes, peppers, carnations and more. The most notable hosts this year are lettuce and African violets.

Symptoms vary widely depending on many factors, including the environment, host species and host age. They include brown or purple spots on leaves, shrunk spots on leaves, brown spots on stems, necrosis (death of plant cells), chlorosis (yellowing of leaves), stunting and ringspots.

## What Can You Do About INSV?

Start with exclusion and monitor through testing. Use the list below as a starting point to help protect your plants.

- When purchasing new plants or cuttings, ask if the supplier tests for INSV.
- Quarantine and test new plants and cuttings yourself before introducing them to areas where they can infect other crops.
- Disinfect cutting tools with a 10% bleach solution or Virkon-S between plants when pruning or other activities.
- Monitor for thrips (sticky traps).
- Apply control measures (insecticides, predatory mites, etc.).
- Monitor for disease (scouting, regular testing).
- Quarantine or destroy infected plants.

## What Testing Options Do You Have?

Several types of test kits are available to monitor and protect your crop through regular testing.

- Lateral flow devices such as INSV ImmunoStrip. It's as easy to use as an at-home COVID test. (See photo at left.)
- ELISA: Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (lab-based)
- Molecular methods such as PCR (lab-based)

While no integrated pest management program is bulletproof, especially when insect vectors are involved, taking some initial steps with good hygiene, testing and vendor selection can go a long way toward maximizing the health of your crops.



# Family Portrait: *Smithiantha cinnabarina*

By Mel Grice

Email: melsgrice@gmail.com

*Smithiantha cinnabarina* (smith-ee-an-tha cin-a-bar-éye-na) is an example of one of my favorite gesneriads. Cinnabarina means vermilion, and the plant has brick-red flowers with a band of yellow below and some variable red lines and spots. The velvety leaves

are covered with reddish hairs that contrast with the dark green background of the leaf. This is a bright red beauty that deserves special lighting when on exhibit. The plant makes a strong statement and literally glows under lights.



*Smithiantha cinnabarina*. Photo credit: Julie Mavity-Hudson.

The genus *Smithiantha* is one of a small number of gesneriad genera named after a woman. The genus name appeared in 1891 to honor Miss Matilda Smith, a talented botanical artist at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew, England.

Smithianthas grow in the tropical rain forests of central and southern Mexico and Guatemala. They can grow up to about 2 feet tall and have rhizomatous root structures. Rhizomes are one of the three root structures found in gesneriads, the other two being fibrous only and tuberous. Rhizomes are actually modified stems, and they grow perpendicular to the force of gravity. Scaly rhizomes are produced under the soil when conditions are favorable. Scaly rhizomes often resemble pine cones and help the plants remain alive during the dry season in the wild. They perform the same function as a tuber or bulb, so do not discard the pot if the plant looks dead — it is only resting or dormant.

*S. cinnabarina* makes large rhizomes in comparison to other rhizomatous gesneriads. *Smithiantha* propagation is by stem cuttings in water or mix. Stem cuttings root very quickly, sometimes within days. Rhizomes can be planted whole, in pieces or by removing individual scales and planting them. *Smithianthas* are shy rhizome producers for me, so don't assume that a pot will be full of rhizomes next year when you want to repot them. Always take some stem cuttings to be sure.



A *Smithiantha* rhizome. Photo credit: Mel Grice.

A crucial factor in rhizome production is keeping the plants consistently well fed and watered. If excess drying occurs too early in the growth cycle, the plants may go dormant prematurely without producing any rhizomes for next year. That is why I try to have two or more pots of a variety growing so that I won't lose the variety if I occasionally forget to water a tray of plants. I try to place each pot in a different part of my plant room so that they are watered on different days.

Terri Vicenzi is one of the featured speakers at The Gesneriad Society Convention this July in Richmond, Virginia. She will be telling everyone about how to grow and bloom *smithianthas*. I am so looking forward to her talk!

# Ceramic Self-Watering Planters: Caring for a Longtime Favorite

By Chris Brooks

Email: [brookscj@hotmail.com](mailto:brookscj@hotmail.com)

Many of us have seen beautiful two-piece ceramic pots holding gorgeous violets in the windowsills of other growers and wondered how they work. Others have fond memories of seeing the decorative planters in the homes of cherished family members and later taking up the violet growing mantle from them. Maybe you have purchased one from a thrift store or been given or inherited one from a favorite relative or friend. You may have used them in the past yourself and found that over the years, they no longer work like they used to. This is when most growers decide to get rid of them or drill a hole in the bottom of the inner pot and use it as a regular planter or wicking pot.



I'm here to tell you to put that drill back in the garage. With some basic knowledge of how they work and how to care for them, there may be no need to take this drastic action. First, let's take a look back at the history of these planters. Then, let's try to understand the basics of how they work and their care.

## History of Self-Watering Planters

Ceramic two-part self-watering African violet planters have been around almost as long as the violet growing hobby itself. After World War II, technological innovation, extra leisure time and higher disposable incomes led to the growth of many hobbies. Two of them grew up together and impacted each other's development.

The ceramics hobby caught fire with the advent of the electric kiln. The African violet hobby bloomed with the decreasing cost and increasing variety of violets. This was the result of many horticulturalists opening greenhouses after the war and the ease of transport by mail-order. The birth of AVSA helped growers and hobbyists find each other and exchange information on violet culture. The advent of fluorescent light stands made it easier to grow more violets, even without the perfect window.

With all these beautiful plants and more usable growing space came a desire to display violets in equally beautiful planters. At the same time, the ceramics hobby provided many beautiful standard decorative planters to house violet, as well as other popular plants. As the violet hobby grew, so did a need for the means of consistent watering of more and more plants on their windowsills and light stands. This need was the mother of the



invention of the two-part self-watering violet planter.

The first mention of these planters was in the September 1950 issue of *African Violet Magazine*. They were invented by a commercial ceramicist named James Starkweather and debuted at the Philadelphia AVSA convention that year. Several years later, they became available to the hobby ceramicist as a slip-cast piece for glazing and firing. Once they were available, many growers glazed their own planters at local ceramics studios, were gifted them by ceramicist friends or purchased them for use. They soon became a common sight in many violet growers' homes because of their beauty and practicality.

These planters operate by allowing water from the glazed and waterproof outer reservoir to be wicked through the unglazed and semi-porous pottery of the inner pot. This inner pot nests neatly inside the outer reservoir pot and is supported by the rim of the reservoir. The glaze colors and planter shapes can vary greatly, and their function is often surpassed by their beauty.

Function, however, is what makes these pots so useful and popular. The thickness of the inner pot and its porosity are key to this function. Thickness and porosity impact the speed at which water can pass through the pot and into the soil; it is important to have a fairly thin inner pot. It is also important that the clay be fired at low temperature. I have seen some newer pots recently whose makers didn't understand these principles. One was a hand-thrown pot that was far too thick. Another was a Chinese import that was fired at too high a temperature or was made of an unsuitable clay and lost its porosity. The only solution for these poor designs is to drill out the pot (we will talk more about this later). As long as you have an inner pot of the proper

thickness of approximately one-eighth of an inch and it was properly fired, it should work fine for many years with proper care.

The first mention  
of two-piece self-  
watering ceramic  
planters was in  
the September 1950  
issue of *African  
Violet Magazine*.

### **Correct Potting Mix and Care**

Proper care to get the best function and long-term use out of these pots is not difficult. It is most important to use a loose and porous planting mix. A mix of 60 to 70% perlite and the balance a good-quality African violet soilless mix works well. The perlite percentage can be varied depending on the wicking capacity of the inner pot — more for a fast-wicking pot and less for a slower pot. This will keep the soil from becoming a compacted, wet brick or too dry. Adding an inch of perlite to the bottom of the inner pot can help fix a pot that is staying far too wet. This will give the pot a bit of space for water to collect outside of the soil.

Another method of controlling soil moisture is to vary the high-water level of the reservoir depending on the porosity of the inner pot. If the soil is staying too wet, lower the maximum fill line. If the soil is staying too dry, raise the maximum fill level. This changes the amount of surface area of the pot in contact with the water and allows more or less transfer of water through the pot.

Choosing a plant that is the right size for the pot also helps to keep the soil moisture correct. Never put an undersized plant in these pots. A small plant will not be able to use up the water being supplied to it in a timely manner, and it may get waterlogged and rot. Since the inner pot has no drain holes, the soil cannot be leached to prevent salt buildup. A dilute fertilizer solution will reduce the rate of fertilizer salts building up in the soil. Using 1/8 teaspoon of fertilizer per gallon of water is a good starting point. Repot once or twice a year and salts should not be a problem.

With use, the outer reservoir will get dirty. It should be given a quick rinse once a month when watering. Also, give the outside of the inner pot a quick scrub at this time. When repotting (preferably every six months), take the extra step of scrubbing the inside and outside of the inner pot with a Scotch-Brite pad and plain water. This minimal care should provide many years of trouble-free use.

### Reviving a Planter that Isn't Working

Planters that have been neglected, a second-hand one that isn't working well or planters used for so long that they have stopped wicking water can be revived. What to do? Don't worry; there is hope. Over time, even with the best care, the inner pot will build up carbonate minerals from the water and organic contaminants from the soil in the pores of the ceramic. This eventually reduces or eliminates the ability of the inner pot to allow water to pass into the soil.

The following procedure will remedy this and can also be used every year or so to help prevent pots from clogging up. Only a few common materials are needed. The first step is a thorough scrubbing of the inner pot with a Scotch-Brite pad and water.



Supplies needed to clean a planter: white vinegar, green Scotch-Brite pad, bottle brush, paper towels, clogged and dirty planter, and a bowl just large enough to hold the inner pot.

Next, submerge the inner pot in white vinegar overnight. This soaking will dissolve the carbonate minerals trapped in the ceramic and leach out some of the organics. After the pot has soaked in vinegar, return the vinegar to its jug to be used on another pot later on or disposed of.



Completely submerged the inner pot in vinegar to dissolve carbonate minerals and leach out organics that may be clogging the pot.

Now, give the pot a rinse in plain water and run it through the dishwasher without detergent to remove the vinegar. If a dishwasher isn't available, soak the inner pot in hot water for a few hours instead. Now, the pot is likely ready to be returned to use.

Testing a newly cleaned pot for return to service or a planter received secondhand is easy. All that is needed is water and a wad of paper towels. First, make sure the inner pot is thoroughly dry. Fill the outer reservoir with water and insert the inner pot. Once this is done, get a wad of paper towels large enough to fill the inner pot and stuff it inside.



To determine if a newly cleaned or secondhand pot is working correctly, fill the inner pot with paper towels and set it in the outer reservoir filled with water.

Once the paper towels are in place, set a timer and come back in thirty minutes to an hour. The paper towels should now be damp and there should be no standing water in the inner pot. The pot is now ready for use. If water has collected in the pot, it may be cracked or the pot may be too thin. This pot can be bottom watered using the reservoir and then the reservoir drained like normal bottom watering. It can also be converted to a regular pot by adding a bottom drain hole.

Choosing a plant that is the right size for the pot also helps to keep the soil moisture correct. Never put an undersized plant in these pots.

If the towels are dry and you have already completed the vinegar soak, it's time for more drastic action.

Don't go for the drill just yet. There is one more way to save the planter if it isn't wicking. If a friend is a potter or ceramicist and has a kiln, or if there is a pottery studio nearby, the inner pot can be refired. What is the point of this? Refiring the inner pot burns out the trapped organics, which are hard to remove otherwise, and will also break down any carbonates left in the pot that the vinegar did not remove. It is also a way to repair cracks in the glazed rim and seal any chips with a spot of new glaze. I have even repaired an inner pot that was cracked in half by refiring it after using some thin slip (potters clay and water) to join the pieces back together.

Suggest to the person operating the kiln to refire the pot to between cone 06 and 04. The leading zero in 06 and 04 is important to remember. Firing at cone 4, 5 or 6 will ruin the porosity of the pot. It may also be necessary to have the pot fired twice, as sometimes the off-gassing of the carbonates and organics can

cause glaze defects that may require an extra firing to correct.

Another option is to ask the kiln operator to fire to 06 with a 30-minute hold at the end. This hold may not be possible with some older kilns without digital controls. Defer to the operator's expertise for this process. Hopefully, after the firing, the pot will no longer be clogged with brown organics or carbonates and will look and work like new.



Top: outer and inner pot before refiring. Bottom: outer and inner pot after refiring.

### Drilling a Pot

If the newly fired pot still doesn't work, or if a new pot is too thick or is not porous due to a poor firing, now is the time to break out that drill. Drilling an inner pot is not difficult, but it does require the right tools and technique.

First things first: Where should the hole be drilled? Most people go straight for the bottom of the pot. Stop and think first. If this is a new pot that has no wicking ability or an old one that is permanently and fully clogged, why put the hole in the bottom? If the hole is drilled in the bottom, now the pot has a permanently and drastically reduced reservoir capacity. The water level must stay below the level of the hole, and there is often little clearance between the bottom of the inner pot and the bottom of the reservoir.

If the hole is drilled in the side of the inner pot below where it rests on the rim of the outer pot and below the top of the soil, the useful size of the reservoir will be mostly maintained. Simply make sure the wick is long enough to reach the bottom of the outer pot and will be below the soil of the inner pot. Fill the reservoir with water to just below where the hole is about to be drilled. The wick will draw in the water just fine. For top or bottom watering, or if the inner pot allows in too much water, go ahead and drill a hole or two in the bottom of the pot for drainage or wicking.



Side-drilled pot with wick.



Bottom-drilled pot.



Now, it is time to drill. Mark the hole location with a permanent marker or pencil. Select a bit that is about 1/4 inch in diameter and is either a carbide, masonry or diamond-tipped bit. A cheap wood bit can work sometimes, but don't expect much use out of it in the future.

Now, chuck up the selected bit in the drill, put on a dust mask and safety glasses, and get ready to drill. Apply light pressure at low speed. Too much pressure or a very high speed may cause a chipped, cracked or thoroughly broken pot. Take your time. As long as there is a steady trail of dust, all is well. Once the hole is drilled, the pot is fit for its purpose again.

I hope this information will help with the maintenance of two-part ceramic self-watering pots, will allow for proper cleaning of clogged pots to put them back into use or has provided you the confidence to go seek one out at the local thrift store or on eBay or Etsy.

These planters come in so many beautiful shapes, designs and colors that it's worth taking the time to care for them properly, showcase the artistry of the makers and highlight the splendor of our violets. With the decline in the ceramics hobby, they may be a little harder to come by, but they are worth the effort to locate. Even if the planter is beyond all hope of working as intended, it can be used as a lovely display piece by simply nesting a plastic pot inside the inner pot. However, if the guidelines in this article are followed, these planters will give many years of service and can be passed down for generations.

I would like to credit and thank the past columnists who wrote on this subject and from whom some of this information was gleaned and later put into practice: Floyd Johnson, Shirley Jeffrey, Peg Eaton and especially Joyce Stork, who encouraged me to submit this article.



Photo credit: Winston J. Goretsky

### **Hunter's Lil Pissah**

Hybridized by: K. Muzalewski  
Grown by: Ann Athey  
Semiminiature



# Tips for Hybridizers

By Natalia Puminova

*Editor's note: A version of this article first appeared in the Almanac of African Violet and Gesneriad World Today, Volume 4.*

These are notes for those growers who dream of creating their own unique violets. It is necessary to dream — it is the force that moves you along your path — but you still need to know about hybridizing and put in a lot of work. I want to give some tips that will be useful in the future. (It is assumed that the growers already know how to grow plants well.)

First, determine your capabilities. This can be based on factors such as the available area for growing, time and money. It's a good idea to choose the direction of your hybridizing work in advance — standard violets, miniature violets, trailer violets, variegated violets or others — to narrow down your interests.



Natalia Puminova

There is a lot of literature on hybridizing on the internet and in books and magazines. It is useful when reading to make entries with links to their source. Materials about the winners of shows and varieties that attracted you will be very useful. It is convenient to collect them in a notebook, placing at the beginning a list of varieties in alphabetical order with a link to the pages allocated to the variety. On the left side of the page, put the standard description. On the right, include additional information. Especially valuable are the materials about the negative traits of the cultivar. When growing a plant in my collection, I add my comments to the right side of the page as well.

In the process of hybridizing work, it is necessary to keep lists, the structure of which are better thought out in advance. Here are some ideas:

- Crosses by year, planned and made, with comments.
- Sowings by year.
- Seedlings by year with their descriptions.
- Varieties with a description.

You can come up with your own prefix in advance. Prefixes in the names allow you to accurately determine the desired variety when there is more than one with the same name. For example, there are three violets with the name Love, but the presence of the prefix EK, VaT or AV accurately determines the desired one. There are three violets with the

name Vera, but again, the prefixes N, LE or VaT determine the desired one.

To reduce scribbling, save photos of plants on a flash drive. Examples of photos you might save include:

- Prize winners at shows.
- Favorite plants that can be useful in your work.
- Your seedlings, denoting N families.
- The seedlings in the family.
- Your own varieties.

Photos of other plants should give maximum information about the structure of the rosette (the location of leaves, peduncles, flowers) and the flowers themselves (the presence of a pistil, anthers, the nature of the corolla). Also, photographing your plants from above against the background of concentric circles drawn on white paper (at 4, 6 and 8 inches) with the indication of the diameter will show a lot. Having descriptions and photos of plants makes it is easier to choose a breeding pair of them.

The selection of a pair is the most important factor in creating your own unique violet. First, you need to choose a mother, then identify several candidates for fathers. Then, knowing the laws of hybridizing and using the available “dossiers” on candidates, choose the best of them. A few more techniques will reduce the selection work. If you need a father for crossing that is not in your collection, you can get his pollen (from two to three flowers) and put it in a small bag. Be sure to write P, the name of the variety and the date of removal of the flower/pollen. Put them in plastic bags by year and put them in a plastic box in the fruit compartment of the refrigerator. I do the same with pollen from my seedlings that are selected as fathers. If the necessary mother is not in my collection, I buy it.

Be sure to learn how to pollinate in advance. Otherwise, when the time comes to do the

intended pollination, it may not work because you may make mistakes. The pods that have matured after pollination (two to three pieces per pollination) are stored in the same way as pollen, but with a different inscription on the packages: C, mother x father, the date of pollination and the date of removal. I keep lists of the seeds and pollen I received.

I grow plants in my city apartment. There are windows and a plant stand. The windowsill can be extended and protected in winter from the hot air of the heaters. With the western orientation of my windows in the afternoon, the plants are protected from the sun by hanging tracing paper in two layers. Additional illumination of plants is carried out by two fluorescent tubes of 30 watts each. On the window, I place adult plants grown with wick watering.

On the plant stand, I use the same tubes for lighting. The time of their operation is set by a timer. Seeds are grown in plastic containers. Seedlings are grown in boxes made of thin aluminum. Two smaller boxes are set inside of the larger boxes. The presence of boxes within boxes allows you to remove the small boxes individually from the stand to the table and do all the work with plants sitting down. To simulate a dome on the boxes with seeds, I use the transparent packaging film for flower bouquets.

When the seedlings begin blooming, you can start selecting them according to the structure of the rosette. Uninteresting seedlings are destroyed by cutting with scissors under the root, but not by pulling out, so as not to injure the roots of the remaining ones and delay their flowering.

When all the remaining seedlings bloom, they are transplanted into individual dishes, which must be labeled. For example, S 206 (5), where S is the seedling, 206 is the family

number and 5 is the seedling number. Next, the date of planting and the composition of the potting mix is indicated. The plants are placed in a box, where they bloom and are finally selected as varieties.

Varieties must be displayed at shows. After all, at home, against the background of the rest of the seedlings, the resulting variety can seem outstanding. However, when comparing it with the varieties of other hybridizers, this may not look interesting at all. And predicting the appreciation of amateur growers is often even more difficult. It is always very interesting to receive comments, and it is a pity that you cannot hear what the judges say about the winners and how they decide about the distribution of places.

In conclusion, the natural question is, am I dreaming now? Yes, I am. And if you dream, then dream! My dream is to get a plant that has the best properties of each parent by

Be sure to learn  
how to pollinate in  
advance. Otherwise,  
when the time  
comes to do the  
intended pollination,  
it may not work  
because you may  
make mistakes.

crossing between an African violet and a *Streptocarpus*.

### Growing Tip

“Are you centers too tight? These simple steps may help you determine the cause of the problem.

1. Place one piece of toilet tissue over the center of your plant for one week. If the center opens up, your problem is light intensity. Either raise the lights, move the plant farther away or decrease the amount of time the lights are on.

2. If the center is still tight after a week, it could be a pest or fertilizer problem. Are the leaves twisted or distorted? If the leaves are

curved up or down on the leaf margins and the leaves are distorted, it is likely a mite problem.

3. If there are no twisted or distorted leaves in the center, it is usually a fertilizer problem. Cut back on the fertilizer for a month and you will usually see a marked improvement.

4. If there is no change, consider when the plant was last potted. The more rootbound a plant becomes, the tighter the center will grow. If this is the case, simply repotting will solve the problem.” —Steven Covolo-Hudson



Photo credit: Winston J. Goretsky

## **Cajun's Flamboyant Mistress**

Hybridized by: B. Thibodeaux

Grown by: Wayne Geeslin

Standard



# Why We Should Grow Species Saintpaulias

By Paul Kilroy

Email: onpilgrimage8512@yahoo.com

We live in a society with a “more is more” mentality — where a well-made egg bagel may still be a toothsome delight, but who could really want one of those anymore when the prospect of the gustatory transport of an everything bagel awaits? We now have “everything violets” as well, with seemingly endless arrays of leaf shapes, contortions and variegation, and new flower forms with color combinations and petal counts arguably beyond description. I guess it is just the natural progression of things when mankind get its hand into something, to build on and perhaps improve upon what was once only basic. In so doing, however, an appreciation of the practicality and beauty of things that are fundamental and to-the-point can be forgotten or lost.

The collecting and maintaining of species saintpaulias and other gesneriads in my earlier years is a memory that brings back many fond recollections of people and places that for me are not here anymore. Because of this, my love for species saintpaulias far outweighs my love for any hybrid. Though admittedly it is the hybrid plant that attracts most growers today, the importance and appreciation of ancestral plants can sometimes be forgotten or overlooked. Having an appreciation of these progenitors of all the African violet hybrids that have come along since provides a broader context in which to more fully appreciate the plants we coax along on our stands and sills today. Toward that end, I would like to offer a few thoughts as to why we should grow species saintpaulias.

Having an appreciation of these progenitors of all the African violet hybrids that have come along since provides a broader context in which to more fully appreciate the plants we coax along on our stands and sills today.

## Growing Species Saintpaulias for Aesthetic Reasons

Species saintpaulias are subtle, spare and elegant plants that are unencumbered with all the morphological bells and whistles that have been brought into existence by the hybridizers of today’s modern varieties. No bustled, girl,



variegated or Clackamas foliage forms the photosynthetic factories of these plants. No star, fimbriate, doubled, “chimera-ed” or fantasied flowers do species plants send aloft in any hope of attracting a pollinating bee.

Species are not the pampered and overbred prima donnas we coddle under our grow lights and parade with pride at showtime. They are cut-to-the-chase survival machines — plant athletes that have evolved to be able to survive and reproduce themselves in their natural environment over the long haul and be equal to all the more usual challenges they experience in their natural habitat.

### **Growing Species Saintpaulias for (Ancient) Historical Reasons**

The few currently extant species saintpaulias are the last remaining remnants of their once more varied kind, numbering at most at around twenty, or as few as only six or eight species with countless subspecies, depending on whose taxonomic breakdown you may wish to consult. Without the aid of a botanist or horticulturist, these ancient plants have arisen of their own accord from the lay of creation and have come down to us today. Before the earliest of our human ancestors stood erect on the Olduvai savanna to take their first tentative bipedal steps, these plants already sat in the nearby African hills. They were already there. They were already old. Perhaps one of our foraging forebears even wandered past them one day and found them some source of delight!

### **Growing Species Saintpaulias for Genetic Reasons**

Species saintpaulias are repositories of still largely untapped genetic material that may yet be utilized to influence the form and color of future African violets. The best known of the first hybrids — the Original 10 — were stout plants, all of which had some version of a single purplish flower sitting atop a more-than-ample rosette of big green leaves.

The primary predecessors of these early hybrids were *S. ionanthus* and *S. confusus*, but hybrid recumbent varieties of African violets did not begin to come into existence until caulescent species such as *S. ionanthus* ssp. *grotei* and others contributed some of their genetic makeup — and just look at the variety of trailers we have now. Hybrid miniatures were also unknown until hybridizers tapped the genetic wealth of smaller species such as *S. shumensis* and *S. pusilla*.

### **Growing Species Saintpaulias for Conservation Reasons**

Compared to many of the other more ornamental gesneriads, which seem to have survived in great numerical diversity, relatively few species saintpaulias still exist in the world today. Most of those that do exist, however, do so in very fragmented populations often occupying little more than the expanse of a single limestone outcropping. It was largely the 19th century that brought about the onslaught of *Saintpaulia* habitat degradation and loss. Potentially arable areas of sub-montane rainforest were cleared or otherwise altered to facilitate the planting of cash crops such as coffee, sisal, tea or rubber. Select timber was also being harvested to satisfy the Victorian furniture manufacturer’s market hungry for exotic woods.

Saintpaulias can only grow in areas of high humidity beneath the perpetual and lightly dappled shade of rainforest canopies, but left undisturbed, they have demonstrated that they can exist in these rarified biomes for centuries beyond counting by virtue of the fact that they are still here with us today. It is largely the chainsaw, however, that has sounded the death knell for whole populations of these plants. Only one or two days after the felling of overarching trees, the saintpaulias once living beneath them perish in the heat of the African sun and are gone forever. Another

writer lamented how sobering a thought it was that while countless numbers of hybrid African violets now grace homes and conservatories around the globe, back in their homeland, their humble parents teeter on the brink of nonexistence.

Conservation efforts have begun in more recent decades and questionably effective land management is somewhat more highly regulated. The day may come, however, when some small population of a species just quietly blinks out of being — only to exist thereafter as a sere

specimen pressed between blotting paper in the archives of some botanical garden. Thankfully, there are botanical gardens in which examples of extant species are being maintained, but why not consider adding one or two of these more simple African violet delights to your collection as well.

Editor’s note: We remind readers that according to page 59 of *The AVSA Handbook for Growers, Exhibitors, and Judges*, “The genus *Saintpaulia* has been reclassified as *Streptocarpus* subsp. *Streptocarpella* sect. *Saintpaulia*.”

# “Perfectly Pittman” Video

This video chronicles the multiple hybrids, growing techniques, growing spaces and AVSA involvement of Hortense and Ray Pittman.



Jolly Orchid

Available in the  
AVSA Store.  
DVD and  
Thumbdrive  
format \$20



Photo credit: Winston J. Goretsky

### ***Chrysothemis pulchella* 'Bronze'**

Grown by: Robert McMeel

# Using Carnivorous Plants to Control Fungus Gnats

By Patricia De La Torre

Email: [salsarme2411@gmail.com](mailto:salsarme2411@gmail.com)

Have you ever used those unsightly yellow sticky traps to catch fungus gnats?

Did you know there is a natural alternative to help control gnats? There's a carnivorous plant that can help with this issue and loves living amongst our beautiful African violets and other gesneriads. *Pinguicula* plants, also known as Butterwort or more commonly as Pings, love fungus gnats.

These plants are native to Central America; however, they adapt very well to our African violet growing conditions, whether it be under artificial or natural light. They even love windowsills.

*Pinguiculas* are easy to grow and propagate using leaf pullings (gently pulled leaves). Be careful pulling leaves, as the root systems are very shallow. Gently lay the pulled leaves atop moistened sphagnum moss, seal the bowl or container with plastic wrap and you are in business. You can also start them on damp paper towels placed inside plastic bags.

In approximately six to eight weeks, you will begin noticing baby *pingueculas* appearing. Once they are large enough to pot up (approximately 1/2 inch in diameter), use the pot of your choice (as long as it has drain holes in the bottom). Three-ounce round white cups work great.

Fill the pot with the medium of your choice. Most people grow *pingueculas* in regular AV medium or premade *pinguecula* mix bought

from carnivorous plant stores. I've purchased both *pingueculas* and medium from Predatory Plants, California Carnivores and PetFlyTrap, to name a few. Do not pack the medium in the pot. Dig a small hole in the center and place the baby in the hole. Gently push the medium up around the delicate root system.

When ordering *pingueculas*, sometimes they come bare root; however, they are easy to pot up just as potting up the babies. Most vendors include excellent instructions and tips to go along with the plants.

Keep the plants moist in a tray of standing reverse osmosis or distilled water about 1 to 1 1/2 inches deep. Once the water in the tray evaporates, refill the tray. Wicking on reservoirs is another option. *Pinguiculas*, like other carnivorous plants, do not require fertilizer. Like our violets, though, they love to be repotted two to three times a year.

In spring, the leaves become sticky (or dewy) and a little slimy to the touch. This is how they catch their prey. The gnats are attracted to the leaves due to the slight rotting smell they emit. You will not smell this on your stands. The gnats become trapped on the leaves; next, the plant begins to digest the insects like magic!

Some *pingueculas* go dormant or succulent in the winter and the leaves become a little thicker or leathery. During this dormancy period, they do not attract gnats. During winter, as opposed to the other times of the year, the plants can withstand drier conditions.

Placing pingueculas on several shelves of your collection is a huge help in controlling gnats. By the way, once or twice a week they do enjoy a light mist of reverse osmosis or distilled water.

Like our violets, pingueculas require some grooming. The lower leaves will become dry and brown. You can gently pull these spent leaves off or cut them with scissors.

Another plus for these cute little plants is they are fun to watch grow and occasionally bloom.

Yes, I said bloom! They do all this while helping diminish your gnat population. Another plus is you can propagate and sell them at your club sales. People are so curious about pingueculas.

If you're curious, there is a wealth of information on these wonderful little plants on the internet. Enjoy Pinging!



Photo credit: Winston J. Goretsky

***S. ionanthus* subsp.  
*ionanthus* var.  
*ionanthus***

**AVSA 2022 Convention**  
2nd Best in Show – Commercial  
Grown by: Joanne Schrimsher



# What to Pack for the AVSA National Convention in Atlanta

By Randy G. Deutsch

Email: [fundraising@avsa.org](mailto:fundraising@avsa.org)

May is the last month of spring in Atlanta. You can expect a moderately hot month, with temperatures in the range of an average low of 60 degrees F and an average high of 81 F. That makes for splendid mornings to take a walk or enjoy a refreshing jog outdoors.

In May, Atlanta experiences relative humidity levels that average about 70%. Anyone on a tour should have very pleasant days. A person should always be prepared to keep themselves hydrated, however.

By the time the convention starts, the length of daylight you can expect is about 14 hours per day. The average sunrise will be about 6:30 a.m. and the average sunset will be about 8:45 p.m. I would prepare for at least one rainy day while you are at convention

but probably not more than that. It seems the average rainfall this time of year is about 1 inch at a time.

For you northern folks or our friends from Canada, there will be no snow during your stay, guaranteed! Atlanta will feel like heaven after the kind of winter many of you experienced this year. The most direct sun will occur between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., so if you are going to be outside during that time, you might want to remember a wide-brimmed hat or even the sun-protective clothing that is now available. And of course, don't forget your sunglasses.

Overall, we should experience glorious weather while we enjoy the convention. Hope to see many of you there.



Downtown Atlanta. Photo credit: Gene Phillips, courtesy of ACVB and AtlantaPhotos.com.

# SAVE THE DATE!

## MEET US IN ATLANTA IN 2023



**African Violet Society of America  
Annual Convention and Show  
"WHERE IT ALL BEGAN"  
MAY 28 – JUNE 4, 2023**

**Show and salesroom OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:  
Friday, June 2, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Saturday, June 3, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

**Sheraton Atlanta Hotel**  
165 Courtland St. NE, Atlanta, GA 30303

# Advice for First-Time Convention Attendees

By Candace Baldwin

Email: [auction@avsa.org](mailto:auction@avsa.org)

Congratulations! It's your first convention! I know you'll have a good time and meet new friends.

First things first. Once you are settled in at the hotel, check in at the AVSA registration table. There will be signs in the hotel for the location and the open times are located in the convention schedule. At registration, you will receive a goodie bag that contains information about what you registered for, the souvenir convention booklet and other assorted items.

Next, plan to attend the first-time attendee meeting on Wednesday afternoon where I cover different aspects of the convention. I'll review the souvenir convention booklet (your

bible at convention), give insider tips and provide lots of time to meet other first timers and answer questions.

I highly encourage you to enter the show (even just one plant) as it is an amazing experience. I know many people want to go and see what it's like before being an exhibitor. I felt the same way and was more than a little intimidated at the thought of entering at my first convention. I did it anyway and am so glad I did. Having a goal to have at least one entry gave me a reason to spend more time with my plants.

Feel free to contact me with any questions. See you in Atlanta.

## Luncheon Auction: Donations Needed

By Candace Baldwin

The Convention Luncheon Auction starts with generous donations from our individual members, commercial members and clubs. Please consider making a donation of a violet-related item or anything rare, unique or

unusual in nature. Don't forget to check your plant shelves and donate a starter plant (or two or three) of recent introductions or vintage violets. Donors are acknowledged with a listing on the luncheon tables.

If you have an item that's a bit big to drag along with you, or you have an item but are not planning to attend the convention, contact me at [auction@avsa.org](mailto:auction@avsa.org).

We also need volunteers to help inventory items, be spotters during the heat of the bidding and provide receipts to the winning

bidders. Complete the online form under Luncheon Auction on the website or send me an email at [auction@avsa.org](mailto:auction@avsa.org) if you can volunteer.

It's great fun to bid and even more fun to win knowing with every contribution (either donating or bidding) you're supporting AVSA. Come join the fun!



## AVSA Drinkware Order Yours Now!

AVSA has contracted with MD Engraving (Sioux Falls, SD), to bring you customizable drinkware products.

Perfect for the office or growing room. Great gift for outgoing officers or judges!



### FEATURES

- ◆ High quality double-insulated stainless steel drinkware maintains beverage temperature
- ◆ Hand wash - easy to clean
- ◆ Available in many styles and colors
- ◆ Optional lid choice

### CUSTOMIZABLE (no extra cost)

- ◆ Choose one of three AVSA logos or submit your own affiliate logo
- ◆ Add a second image to the reverse side
- ◆ Add a name personalization
- ◆ Many options available



Place group order and save on shipping.  
Orders over \$110.01 shipped free!

See details and place orders at [mdengravinggifts.com/avsa-orders.html](http://mdengravinggifts.com/avsa-orders.html)

**Proceeds benefit the  
African Violet Society of America Inc.**







Photo credit: Winston J. Goretsky

## **Jolly Devil**

Hybridized by: H. Pittman

Grown by: Linda Sumski

Semiminiature





Photo credit: Elena Korshunova

## **EK-Glaz Almaz**

### **2022 AVSA Convention New Introduction**

Hybridized by: E. Korshunova

Standard



# AV Creative Corner: Saying Thank You to Our African Violets

By Rich Follett

Email: [avcreativecorner@gmail.com](mailto:avcreativecorner@gmail.com)

African violets bring so much to our lives — beauty, creativity, a sense of community, memories and joy, among other things. How often do we stop and remember to give thanks for the gifts that these companionable plants bring us? The Creative Corner challenge for this issue of the *AVM* is to write a letter to your AVs to say thank you for all that they bring to your life.

Your letter can be long or short, typed or handwritten, decorated or plain — heck, you can write it in eyebrow pencil on a grocery bag! All that matters is that you apply your creativity in a personal way to say thank you for the gift of African violets in your world. Start with “Dear Violets” and see what comes out — you might surprise yourself! Think about the plants, the flowers, the friends and the memories and let your pen (or your keyboard) take flight.

If you are an artist, you can decorate your letter with illustrations, a collage, scrapbooking bits and pieces or just about anything that will add visual appeal. This might be a perfect opportunity to break out that calligraphy kit you have been holding onto for years or revive that long-dormant quill pen.

If you do not have artistic talents up your sleeve, you might create your letter digitally and add clip art. A plain letter would be great

too — just let your words come from the heart and they will hit their mark.

I am just crazy enough that I am going to go downstairs to my growing room and read my letter aloud to my African violets once I finish it. You might want to do the same. In addition, sharing your letters (or portions thereof) could be a fun and different activity for a club meeting, or you might compile them to be included in your club’s newsletter or annual directory.

Gratitude is such an important part of the human experience, and the positivity that gratitude brings is a balm for many of the stresses of daily living. Let’s show our African violets some love, exercise our creative instincts and recharge our own devotion to these delightful plants that bring us so much happiness.

If you would like to share your letter in a future edition of the *AVM*, take a picture (at least 300 dpi, please) and email it to [avcreativecorner@gmail.com](mailto:avcreativecorner@gmail.com) by June 1, 2023 for possible publication. If you would like to share your letter with me but do not want it to be published, just put “Do Not Publish” in the email subject line and I will read it and reply privately.

Let the wave of gratitude begin!

# Taking Home the Best Violet from the Little Rock Convention

By Bruce Pearson

Email: [Tropicalwrld@gmail.com](mailto:Tropicalwrld@gmail.com)

One of the highlights of the year for me is attending the national African violet convention. It's always a pleasure to reunite with old friends and make new ones. I also enjoy seeing the best of the best violets being grown in the country and acquiring plants that are just not available at your local nurseries and stores. Seeing all these amazing plants and actually visiting with the owners is priceless for me.

I remember my first encounter with a convention was in New Orleans and I was flabbergasted. Huge plants up to 2 feet across and minis barely 2 inches across, not to mention leaves in all shapes and sizes, plus variegation. It is hard to believe that this was all derived from just a few species in the wilds of Kenya and Tanzania. Just think: This tremendous variety and diversity we enjoy today has all developed within the last 100 years.

But the 2022 convention was the best hands down. I may get in trouble with Wayne Geeslin and some of the judges, but my Violet shines far above Wayne's fabulous Picasso. Plus, she was even specially delivered to the show and immediately adored by all in her presence, even before she entered the show room. A true showstopper!

You see, Violet is an 8-week-old Pembroke Welsh Corgi puppy accompanied by her brother Rocky (names we had picked out before

coming to the convention). Now, don't get me wrong: Violet and Rocky were accompanied by many more violets and a few gesneriads back to West Palm Beach, but she continues to be the best "violet" in my collection and hopefully will remain so for many years.



A few days after arriving back home, Violet spent the day with Lynn DeMaio, our local club's president. Can you imagine my horror when Lynn called and said Violet had torn up her Picasso. Luckily, it was just a violet and not a painting. I was glad I had several Picassos to replace hers. However, none of them came close to what Wayne had grown. Looking forward to Atlanta.

# Confession of a Violette

By Irina Kuznetsova

Email: irinakuznetsova68034@gmail.com

*“When you like a flower, you pluck it. When you love a flower, you take care of it. And you let him live his life.” —Unknown*

My relationship with violets? First, there was the passion. This is when you need to look at them, touch them. And you run to the windowsill every ten minutes. You are touched by these flowers! There are two of them for the whole violet. You don't care about the symmetry of the crown, the number of leaves. The main thing in violets is flowers! And on some violets, the flowers are disorient — say, one is pink with blue splashes and the other is just pink. You know absolutely nothing about mutations and sports, and you don't even think of reading anything. You just proudly stare at your exclusive, unique-in-the-whole-universe violet and plant leaves from it.

You also need to do something with the subject of your passion. It is not possible to transplant every day, but watering is easy. With each regular visit, you water generously from all your singing heart.

And then the violets start dying. It is especially unbearable to watch the mommies, who have grown buds that were about to open and instead disappeared, putting their heads on sluggish leaves.

You start to read. Learn a new word: agricultural engineering. As a swimmer from a high diving board, you dive into information about soil, lumens, NPK formulas and other things that the object of your adoration can't live without.

Violets will gladly  
teach you many  
things. All you need  
is the desire to  
learn from them.

And along comes the love. Love is all about caring. This is when you need to make your loved ones enjoy life. Gradually, you get to know the world of your violets and they bloom in every sense of the word. You live a harmonious life, adjusting more and more to each other.

The years go by. You are already used to the luxury of flowers, their diversity and the brightness of colors. You begin to see the beauty of foliage. Moreover, you accept some flaws of foliage or flowers for the overall beauty of the variety. And you find charm in a combination of these flaws and virtues. That's how respect comes. You accept the violet as a living being. And you can't break her several layers of bottom foliage in order to have more pots on the shelf or for the sake of a spectacular photo. You understand that the leaves are her lungs, her digestive tract. And you love your violet, all of it — together with its luxurious appearance and digestive tract.

Would you like me to describe the character of violet? If plants have a gender, then violets are definitely female. (Or be the judge for yourself.)

Community. Violets can't do without the company of people. Unlike the cactus, which you can approach once a month, violets will bloom without the attention of the hostess. You need to approach them every day, say hi, ask how they are. And at the same time, if necessary, move the pot closer to the light or ensure that there is sufficient power capacity and moisture in the soil (no less, no more than needed).

Volatility. Oh, it's the end of the violets! Have you seen many varieties that bloom the same each time? Violets have summer flowering, winter flowering, windowsill and shelf flowering, post-transplanting flowering and flowering in the old soil, not to mention the sports. No one can be 100% sure that in the next flowering your pet will not enter the genetic maze of its DNA.

The requirements. Yes, violets are demanding and sometimes even capricious. "If you like to enjoy my chic appearance," they say, "be kind. Don't be stingy with taking care of me. I need good food and regular general cleaning of the house — removing old soil and filling

it with fresh and high quality. I also need light baths. There should be a lot of light. I like light and air. But just not direct rays, they give me pigmentation."

The will to live. Modern *Homo sapiens* can envy this quality in violets. Violet is trying to survive in all conditions, even the harshest. Yes, she is a queen, but if she finds herself in a huge bowl filled with the garden ground, she will roll up the sleeves of her royal attire and try to dress herself up. As a result, of course, the queen most often turns into a peasant, but physical survival and even continuation of the genus are present.

Remove the violet's roots — in three weeks it will grow new ones.

Cut the leaf into pieces — the pieces will take root.

Leave her almost without light or in the cold — she will cling to life with her teeth.

That last quality is actually the first thing I wish people would borrow from violets, as well as cheerfulness, resilience and the ability to create a large, friendly family. Violets will gladly teach you all this. All you need is the desire to learn from them.



# Fund Reports for January/February 2023

By Randy G. Deutsch and Janet Riemer

Email: [fundraising@avsa.org](mailto:fundraising@avsa.org)

## **Anne & Frank Tinari**

### **Endowment Fund: \$335**

The Anne & Frank Tinari Endowment Fund supports the long-term stability of the Society.

#### ■ **\$100 to \$199**

Chuck Bingham, Altoona, WI

#### ■ **\$50 to \$99**

Albuquerque AVC, NM

Susan Hanna, Harleysville, PA

*(In memory of Karen Dirzuweit)*

#### ■ **\$25 to \$49**

Robert McMeel, Houma, LA

James Matula, Cape Coral, FL

#### ■ **Under \$25**

Lilianne Ager, Pitman, NJ

Cross Town AVC, WI

Pamela Schwager, Neligh, NE

Jill Fischer, Farmville, VA

Susanne Sacco, Tucson, AZ

Virginia Gibson, Eureka, MT

Marion Martin, Westfield, NJ

### ■ **Barbara Burde Endowment Fund: \$155**

The Barbara Burde Endowment Fund supports the Society's long-term needs in technology.

#### ■ **\$50 to \$99**

AVS of Philadelphia, PA

*(In memory of Karen Dirzuweit)*

#### ■ **\$25 to \$49**

Cross Town AVC, WI

Robert McMeel, Houma, LA

Laura Campbell, Camarillo, CA

AVS of Springfield, PA

*(In lieu of payment for Judy Smith*

*Zoom presentation)*

## **Booster Donations: \$790**

Booster Donations support AVSA's ongoing general expenses.

#### ■ **\$100 to \$199**

First AVS of Denton, TX

*(In memory of Eunice Curry)*

Silvia Singh, Tiburon, CA

#### ■ **\$50 to \$99**

Trudy Brekel, Denver, CO

Heart of Jacksonville AVS, FL

*(In lieu of payment for Joyce Stork*

*Zoom presentation)*

Patricia Huffman, Carmichaels, PA

Joyce Stork, Henderson, NV

#### ■ **\$25 to \$49**

Albuquerque AVC, NM

Alice Dulaney, Broomall, PA

William Hearne, Dublin, CA

James Matula, Cape Coral, FL

Cross Town AVC, WI

Robert McMeel, Houma, LA

North Texas AV Judges Council, TX

*(In memory of Ruth Rumsey)*

North Texas AV Judges Council, TX

*(In memory of Eunice Curry)*

North Texas AV Judges Council, TX

Nellie Reese, Chesterfield, VA

Charlotte Wolfe, Ann Arbor, MI

#### ■ **Under \$25**

Penny Allen, Port Orchard, WA

Angelo Cardanini, Camino, CA

Robert Cohen, Wisconsin Rapids, WI

Milly Donahue, Torrance, CA

Phyllis Nash, Riverside, CA

Martin Wright, Williamsville, NY

**Boyce Edens Research Fund: \$160**

The Boyce Edens Research Fund supports research and scholarships.

■ **\$25 to \$49**

Albuquerque AVC, NM

Cross Town AVC, WI

Robert McMeel, Houma, LA

■ **Under \$25**

Elaine Butler, San Francisco, CA

Lynn Campo, Hamden, CT

G. Harmon, New York, NY

Marilyn Heinrich, Northport, NY

Elena Martinez, Miami, FL

Susanne Sacco, Tucson, AZ

Levin Tilghman, Philadelphia, PA



## In Memory

**Dorothy Ruth Rumsey**

Dorothy Ruth Rumsey (Ruthie) passed away on November 12, 2022, at the age of 72 surrounded by her loved ones. She is survived by her husband of 50 years, David Van Rumsey, her daughter, two sons, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews that she loved dearly.

Ruthie was passionate about many things: her family and friends, the beach, the outdoors, dogs, plants, romance novels, Amelia Little

League and her 24-year career as the editor of the *African Violet Magazine* for the African Violet Society of America from 1993 to 2017.

Ruthie loved to meet AVSA members at conventions and connect a face to their names. It was always a lot of fun when Ruthie was around, and her laughter was infectious.

It's so very sad to know that Ruthie is gone, but she will last forever in our hearts and be fondly remembered in our thoughts.



Photo credit: Thomas Webb

## **LiK-Tanets Flamingo**

Hybridized by: G. Lazarenko

Grown by: Thomas Webb

Standard

## APPLICATION TO JOIN The African Violet Society of America, Inc.

P.O. Box 22417, Beaumont, Texas 77720

409-839-4725 • office@avs.org

www.africanvioletsocietyofamerica.org

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal Membership # \_\_\_\_\_

Membership runs one year from the date paid and includes six issues of the African Violet Magazine. Dues are not refundable.

- ☐ Individual Membership USA (\$35)
- ☐ Individual Digital Membership (Global) USA and International (\$28)
- ☐ Associate Member (\$17.50)  
(Must reside with an AVSA member, no magazine included)
- ☐ International Individual, Canada and Mexico (\$40)
- ☐ International Individual, other than Canada and Mexico (\$60)
- ☐ Commercial, Global (\$50)
- ☐ Affiliate Chapter, all levels, USA (\$35)
- ☐ Affiliate Chapter, all levels, Canada and Mexico (\$40)
- ☐ Affiliate Chapter, International other than Canada and Mexico (\$45)
- ☐ Library (\$35)
- ☐ Life Member USA (\$1,000)
- ☐ Life Member Canada and Mexico (\$1,250)
- ☐ Life Member International (\$1,500)



Please print neatly below or apply online at [www.africanvioletsocietyofamerica.org/membership](http://www.africanvioletsocietyofamerica.org/membership)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

VISA/MC accepted; or make your check payable to AVSA, Inc.

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

CVV2 Security Code # \_\_\_\_\_ (last three digits on back of the card)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

International applicants not using credit card may pay in US dollars with a draft or check on a USA bank.

International Postal money orders accepted. Paypal is available with online application.

Were you encouraged to join AVSA by a particular individual, vendor or group?

If so, please enter their name here: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership runs one year from the date paid and includes six issues of the African Violet Magazine.

Another benefit of AVSA membership is reduced pricing on many store items.

### AVSA DONATIONS

Please indicate the amount of your donation in the blank.

AVSA is a 501(c)3 organization.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Booster Fund (general, ongoing expenses of AVSA)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Boyce Research Edens (research & scholarships)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Barbara Burde Endowment Fund (long-term technology)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Anne & Frank Tinari Endowment Fund (long-term stability of AVSA)

Special instructions: \_\_\_\_\_



TOTAL DONATION: \$ \_\_\_\_\_





# ORDER FORM

## The African Violet Society of America, Inc.

Orders may be mailed using this form, by phone, or placed online.

### ORDERED BY: (Please Print):

Address (Include Street Address for UPS):

City, State or Country, Zip:

MEMBERSHIP No.:

Make your check payable to AVSA, Inc.  
VISA/MC accepted on purchases over \$25 (on phone orders only); or Paypal payments are accepted with online orders.

### CREDIT CARD INFORMATION

CC#:

Exp. Date: CVV2 Code: (3 digit # on back of card)

Signature:

INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMERS not using credit card must pay in US dollars with a draft or check on a USA bank.

\$25 service charge on all returned checks.

Please allow 2-4 weeks for delivery in the USA; 2-3 months outside the US by surface mail. Prices do not include flat-rate shipping and handling fee.

Flat-rate shipping/handling charge on all orders except downloads.

USA-\$5.00, Canada and Mexico-\$10.00 and International-\$15.00

SUB TOTAL:

SHIPPING:

Texas residents must add sales tax

TAX:

TOTAL:

Shop  
AVSA Store



Item:

Pricing: Member/Public

### MASTER VARIETY LISTS (MVLs)

138 NEW MVL #16 (2020) ..... 40.00/48.50  
415 First Class 2 Update Online (1 year).....11.00

### CULTURE FOLDERS

106 Regular version (per 100) ..... 17.75/21.25  
106 Regular version International Member (per 100).....21.25

### BOOKS/PUBLICATIONS

302 Growers & Judges Handbook (2022) ..... 30.00/60.00  
436 Growing To Show ('08) ..... 19.95/29.95  
417 50th Anniversary Book ..... 23.75/30.00  
YOU CAN Grow African Violets by Kent & Joyce Stork 16.00/18.95  
113 AVSA Guide Book (for affiliates) .....2.00  
413 Insect & Mite Pests of African Violets ..... 15.00/23.00  
512 2020 AVSA Calendar .....5.00  
513 2021 AVSA Calendar .....5.00  
514 2022 AVSA Calendar .....5.00  
AVM Back Issues .....ea. 5.00

### MISCELLANEOUS

109 Show Entry Tags (per 100) .....12.50  
121 AVSA Neck Wallet .....5.00  
128 Eyeglass Cleaner .....2.00

### CD ROMS (FOR COMPUTERS)

213 CD African Violet Troubles..... 10.00/12.00  
214 CD The Other Gesneriads ..... 10.00/12.00  
215 CD The Pittman Way Of Growing Violets ..... 10.00/12.00  
223 CD The Once & Future Violet 2010 ..... 10.00/12.00

### DVD

218 DVD African Violet Trailers (Bev Promersberger)..... 15.00/17.00  
219 DVD Understanding The African Violet Species (2 DVD Set) ... 25.00/27.00  
221 DVD Growing Violet Trailers (Bill Price) ..... 15.00/17.00  
222 DVD Species To Spectacular (Pat Hancock) ..... 15.00/17.00  
226 DVD Meet the Commercials ..... 15.00/17.00  
227 DVD Violets Dance Across Texas 2013 ..... 15.00/17.00  
228 DVD Violet Pickin' In Tennessee 2014 ..... 15.00/17.00  
229 DVD Violets Love KC Jazz, Blues and BBQ 2015 ..... 15.00/17.00  
230 DVD Violets Color The Land Of Enchantment 2016 ..... 15.00/17.00  
230 TD Violets Color The Land Of Enchantment 2016 (Thumb Drive) 15.00/17.00  
231 TD AVSA Convention Programs ..... 15.00/17.00  
231 DVD AVSA Convention Programs ..... 15.00/17.00  
232 TD Gateway to the Tropics 2017 ..... 15.00/17.00  
232 DVD Gateway to the Tropics 2017 ..... 15.00/17.00  
233 DVD Perfectly Pittman DVD ..... 20.00/25.00  
233 TD Perfectly Pittman Thumbdrive ..... 20.00/25.00

### AVSA JEWELRY

50th Anniversary Pin .....5.00  
75th Anniversary Pin .....6.00

P.O. Box 22417, Beaumont, Texas 77720  
409-839-4725 • office@avsa.org  
www.africanvioletsofamerica.org

Another benefit of AVSA membership is reduced pricing on many store items.

Return to AVSA Office • P.O. Box 22417, Beaumont, Texas 77720





Photo credit: Winston J. Goretsky

## **Mac's Misty Meadow**

Hybridized by: G. McDonald

Grown by: Mary Corondan

Semiminiature

Membership includes: Welcome package for new members; Quarterly issues of *Gesneriads*, the Journal for Gesneriad Growers; access to the Seed Fund; downloadable PDF copies of the journal

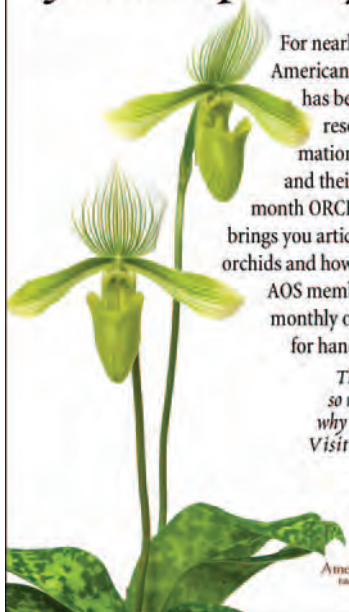


**Bob Clark, Dept. AV**  
**1122 East Pike St, PMB 637**  
**Seattle, WA 98122-3916 USA**

**Individual 1 year \$25, 3 years \$70 (\$30,\$85 outside US)**  
**Family 1 year \$26, 3 years \$73 (\$31,\$88 outside US)**  
**Green option (PDF only) 1 year \$20, 3 years \$55**

Visit us at: [www.gesneriads.org](http://www.gesneriads.org)

## Orchids. Exotic, long-lasting flowers steeped in mystery.



For nearly 100 years the American Orchid Society has been the premier resource for information about orchids and their culture. Each month ORCHIDS magazine brings you articles on featured orchids and how to grow them. AOS members can attend monthly online webinars for hands-on learning.

*The AOS has  
so much to offer,  
why not join today?  
Visit [www.aos.org](http://www.aos.org).*



American Orchid Society  
Education • Conservation • Research



*Specializing in miniature and  
semi-miniature African Violets*

[LegacyViolets.com](http://LegacyViolets.com)

## Glenda's House of Violets

Offering one-stop-shopping for gardening supplies to meet the special needs of the African Violet growing community! Nursery pots, special soil blends, plant grooming tools, other specialized items to help you grow those big, beautiful plants!

Glenda Williams  
 829 Old Highway 20, Unit B  
 McDade, TX 78650-5265



512.988.1918

[ambrosiaviolets@gmail.com](mailto:ambrosiaviolets@gmail.com)

[www.glviolets.com](http://www.glviolets.com)

[www.facebook.com/ambrosiaviolets](https://www.facebook.com/ambrosiaviolets)



**JoS Violets**  
[www.josviolet.com](http://www.josviolet.com)  
 (361) 575-1344



**African Violets  
 Petrocosmeas  
 Primulinas  
 and More**

Email: [plants@josviolet.com](mailto:plants@josviolet.com)

Facebook: [josviolet](https://www.facebook.com/josviolet)



## AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF CANADA

*Join AVSC & become a part of an international network of growers*  
**Members will receive Chatter, our Quarterly Magazine**

Individual Membership: 1 year \$20.00, 2 year \$37.50, 3 year \$55.00.  
 Family, USA & International Memberships Available.

For more information visit [www.avsc.ca](http://www.avsc.ca)  
 or contact **Laurel Goretsky** at:  
 32 Scimitar Point NW Phone: (403) 241-8300  
 Calgary AB T3L 2B2 Email: [laurel@goretsky.ca](mailto:laurel@goretsky.ca)







## Enchanted Gardens

Heidi Dillenbeck

1097 Darby Hill Rd • Delanson, NY 12053 • (518) 895-6054

[heidisviolets@gmail.com](mailto:heidisviolets@gmail.com)

[www.enchantedgardensplantsupplies.com/](http://www.enchantedgardensplantsupplies.com/)

Plastic pots - 1 1/4" to 8" (round-square-pan) Oyama Pots

Wick water reservoirs

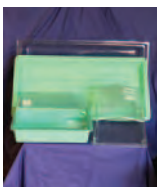
Permanest Trays • 3" and 6" Clear Domes Labels

Leaf Support Rings (6"-9"-13") Fertilizers

Accessories: Sucker pluckers • brushes • scissors • tweezers

*and much more ...*

For catalog: pdf – send email or for printed catalog send me a note



# VioletSupply.com

## Arcadia™ African Violet Mix

High quality blend of sphagnum, vermiculite, coir and hydrocks.

"Wick Mix" also available.

Contact Us for a **FREE CATALOG**

**440-357-0022**

[www.VioletSupply.com](http://www.VioletSupply.com)

- Beautiful Clay Pots
- Oyama Pots
- T5 Grow Lights
- Humidity Trays
- Urea-free Fertilizer
- Leaf Rings

## AVSA Office Hours

### Monday - Thursday

### 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

# DandyPot.com

Visit Our Shop in Ocala, FL

@peacock\_cottage



HOME OF THE ORIGINAL DANDY POT

# DandyPot.com

12 Colors  
3 Sizes

Order  
Today!



## Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses, Inc.

PO Box 249 Dolgeville, NY 13329  
14 Mutchler Street (for GPS users)

*"Where The Violets Are!"*

*Quality hybrids since 1954*

**African Violets, Aeschynanthus,  
Primulinas, Codonanthe,  
Columnneas, Episcias, Kohlerias,  
Nematanthus, Orchids,  
Petrocosmeas, Rex Begonias,  
Streptocarpus, other assorted  
Gesneriads, and SO much more!**

Our greenhouses are open year round.  
No appointments necessary!

Call for hours! Phone (315) 429 8291

Visit our website at:  
[www.lyndonlyon.com](http://www.lyndonlyon.com)

## **PHYSAN 20™ Controls African Violet Pathogens**

- Controls algae on mats, wicks, reservoirs, trays, pots, benches, and work surfaces.
- Controls damping off on seedlings and plants.
- Controls crown rot, powdery mildew, botrytis.
- Controls diseases spread by disinfecting tools.

Let those pesky visitors know they're not wanted. Take control with **PHYSAN 20.**



**Maril Products**  
15421 Red Hill Ave., Ste D  
Tustin, CA 92780  
714-544-7711  
[www.physan.com](http://www.physan.com)

# GROWING TO SHOW



AVAILABLE IN THE AVSA STORE

HOW TO GROW PRIZE-WINNING



**AFRICAN VIOLETS**

*By Pauline Bartholomew and The African Violet Society of America, Inc.*

*Revised 2008*



**Swift**  
MOIST-RITE PLANTER, LLC  
Self-watering flower pot

**Swift  
Moist-Rite**

**The choice  
of champion  
growers  
since 1975!**

Proudly made entirely in the U.S.A.  
The Swift Moist-Rite now comes in 6 colors:  
white, green, terracotta, lavender, sky blue, and black.

**Swift** Moist-Rite  
P.O. Box 141462 • Broken Arrow, OK 74014  
**(918) 951-3014**  
Paypal.me/moistriteplanter  
moistriteplanters19@aol.com  
Please visit our website: [Swiftmoistriteplanters.com](http://Swiftmoistriteplanters.com)  
Individual and wholesale accounts welcome.

 African Violet Society of America

*Moonlight Nursery*

[www.MoonlightNursery.com](http://www.MoonlightNursery.com)

African Violets - Vintage, Allegros, Imp's, Mac's, Senk's, Trailers and More!



Special: Use coupon AVSAMAG to receive 2 gift leaf cuttings (seller's choice) with orders of \$35.00+!



**Dave's Violets** AND OTHER GESNERIADS

Sinningia Heaven - Home of the Ozark series

*"It's a sin not to own a sinningia"*



[DavesViolets.com](http://DavesViolets.com) | (417) 887-8904

## Your Ad Could Go Here

If you sell products African violet hobby growers or hybridizers might use, place your ad in *African Violet Magazine*.

AVSA Commercial members receive a discounted rate for ads and a listing with links on our website, plus other special promotions in the magazine and online.

Contact Richard Craft, AVSA Advertising Chair, at [advertising@avsa.org](mailto:advertising@avsa.org) for more information. We hope to see your ad here in the next issue!





**Safely shipping to satisfied customers  
world-wide since 1985!**

**Looking for African violets? We have them!**

Over 30,000 plants in our shop, barn, and greenroom

Catalog, care tips, 'how to' lessons, and more, at

**[www.violetbarn.com](http://www.violetbarn.com)**

**Exhibitor, collector, or hobbyist? We have plants for everyone.**



Hundreds of varieties, including our award winning "Rob's" and "Ma's" varieties.

At left: one of our 'Ma's' standard varieties grown by Alexandra Kravtsov

A large selection of chimeras, Saintpaulia species, and our popular trailing varieties!  
Plus, the latest hybrids from Russia and Ukraine

**View the website for a full listing and our "Seller's choice" specials.**

**We also grow a huge selection of 'other' gesneriads!**

We're famous for our '**Bristol**' streptocarpus hybrids

Compact, often double flowered, some scented!

Many more, including latest Polish and  
Russian varieties



**And more! like Episcias** (above right)

Huge listing of **Kohleria** (far left) and  
gesneriads for baskets, like **Columnnea**

Adorable miniature gesneriads for  
small containers and terrariums!



We are also the source for miniature container and terrarium plants. These are truly miniature plants.

**View the website for an extensive listing and for our "Seller's choice" specials.**

**Shipping:** April 15-October 31 via USPS priority mail

**We ship in winter!** By express mail only. Visit website for details and pricing.

**We ship anywhere (internationally), anytime – safe delivery guaranteed!**

**If you see it, we have it, if you order it, you get it – no substitutes! Orders shipped next week.**

**Subscribe to our e-newsletter, 'VioletsFun' – growing tips, latest varieties, coupons, and more!**

You can also find us on 'Facebook' ([www.facebook.com/africanviolets](http://www.facebook.com/africanviolets)) and on 'Pinterest'.

**Dr. Ralph (Rob) & Olive Ma Robinson, owners**  
**PO Box 9, Naples, NY 14512**

**Phone: 585-374-8592 Fax: 585-374-6947**  
*Phone orders Monday-Saturday 12-5 pm, web orders anytime*